Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. April 1883.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4834.)

F.O.

424

PART LXXIII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

128

January to March 1883.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Mr. Lascelles ..	101	Dec. 11, 1882	Mussulman proprietors in Bulgaria. Decree of Bulgarian Government respecting. Protest of Turkish Commissioner against	1
2	Mr. White	95 Confidential	23,	Conveyance of munitions of war for Bulgarian Government by Russian boats	2
3	Mr. Wyndham ..	1139	23,	Abuses in North Albania, and apathy of Scutari authorities. Matter brought to notice of Porte	2
4	„ „ ..	1144 Confidential	24,	Turco-Montenegrin frontier. As to resumption of negotiations respecting	2
5	„ „ ..	1146 Confidential	26,	Mussulman refugees in Scutari. Complaints of will be brought to notice of Powers by Porte	3
6	„ „ .	1149 Confidential	26,	Bulgarian Order of St. Alexander. Wish of Bulgarian Government to get Porte to recognize	3
7	Lord Ampthill ..	486	29,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. German Government will accept Austrian proposal ..	3
8	Mr. Kirby Green ..	110 Secret	20,	Proceedings of Prenk Gjoka in Mirdicia. Steps taken relative to	4
9	„ „ ..	112 Confidential	23,	Frontier between Lake Scutari and River Boyana. Opposition of Kraïnotes to placing of boundary marks	4
10	Mr. Locock ..	171	31,	Ill-treatment of Christians of Old Servia. Conversation with his Turkish colleague ..	5
11	Mr. Wyndham ..	1158	30,	Turco-Montenegrin frontier negotiations. Porte's instructions to their Commissioner ..	5
12	„ „ ..	1159	30,	Murders at Scutari. Memorandum respecting given to Aarifi Pasha. Language of his Excellency respecting	5
13	„ „	3 Confidential	Jan. 2, 1883	Erection of Russian church in Shipka Pass. Despatch from Major Trotter	6
14	Sir E. Thornton ..	2	3,	Appointment of M. Koïander as Russian Consul-General at Philippopoli	7
15	Sir H. Elliot ..	1	3,	Rupture of relations between Aleko Pasha and Russian Consul-General. Conversation with Count Kálnoky	7
16	To Mr. Lascelles ..	3	12,	Mussulman proprietors in Bulgaria. To concert with his colleagues as to a collective representation to Bulgarian Government (see No. 1)	7
17	Mr. Egerton ..	3	4,	Turco-Greek frontier. Dispute may at length be considered at an end	8
18	Mr. Wyndham ..	4 Confidential	6,	Montenegrin frontier. Porte have accepted Protocol and submitted it to Sultan ..	8
19	„ „ ..	5	6,	Settlement of Turco-Greek frontier question. Steps taken as to "Vacouf" property ..	8
20	„ „ ..	15	9,	Montenegrin frontier. Difficulty has arisen as to boundary at Kucha Kraïna ..	8
21	Sir H. Elliot ..	6 Confidential	11,	Struggle between Russian and Bulgarian members of Government at Sophia. Conversation with Count Kálnoky	9
22	Count Károlyi ..	..	13,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. As to joint notification at Bucharest and Sophia ..	9
23	Mr. Wyndham ..	6 Secret Telegraphic	14,	Alleged attempt yesterday to assassinate Sultan	10
24	Mr. Kirby Green ..	113	Dec. 31, 1882	Montenegrin boundary. Turkish proposals rejected by Montenegro	10
25	„ „ ..	2	Jan. 4, 1883	Montenegrin boundary. Turkish Commissioner admits Mourwa to be within Montenegrin boundary	10
26	„ „ ..	3	4,	Treatment of Padre Pietro by Montenegrin Government in contravention of Article XXVII of Berlin Treaty	11
27	To Mr. Kirby Green	3 Secret	18,	Steps taken by him with regard to Prenk Gjoka. Approves action reported in No. 8 ..	11

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
28	Mr. Kirby Green ..	1 Telegraphic	Jan. 20, 1883	Hostile encounters between Montenegrins and Albanian mountaineers	12
29	„ „ ..	2 Telegraphic	21,	Further respecting above. Placing of boundary marks postponed	12
30	Mr. Lascelles ..	4 Confidential	8,	Struggles between Russian and Bulgarian parties in the Principality. Embarrassing position of Prince Alexander	12
31	Mr. Wyndham ..	35	16,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. Instructions respecting sent to Ottoman Representative at Bucharest	13
32	Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha	..	16,	Bulgarian tribute, and share of Ottoman debt to be borne by Servia, Greece, &c. Porte desire settlement of question	13
33	Mr. Kirby Green ..	3 Telegraphic	23,	Abdi Pasha made Military as well as Civil Governor of Scutari. Consequences of ..	14
34	„ „	6	16,	Montenegrin Frontier question. Arrangement arrived at with regard to portion of line ..	14
35	„ „ ..	4 Telegraphic	23,	Montenegrin Frontier question. Turkish troops dispatched to frontier near Podgoritza. Resistance expected to occupation of Kraïna by Montenegro	15
36	„ „ ..	5 Telegraphic	25,	Kraïna district occupied yesterday by Montenegrins without resistance	15
37	Mr. Egerton ..	7 Confidential	17,	Relations of Greece with the Great Continental Powers. Conversation with M. Tricoupi ..	15
38	„ „ ..	10 Confidential	18,	Greek agitation in Albania. Conversation with M. Tricoupi	16
39	„ „ ..	11 Confidential	18,	M. Tricoupi deplores the constant bickerings between Greece and the Porte	17
40	Mr. Kirby Green ..	6 Telegraphic	26,	Montenegrin boundary. Turkish Commissioners have returned to Scutari without doing anything	17
41	Mr. Wyndham .	8 Telegraphic	27,	Lebanon Governorship. As to re-election of Rustem Pasha. Delay requested by French Ambassador	17
42	„ „ .	9 Telegraphic	28,	Lebanon Governorship. Russian Minister has no instructions, but appears to favour Rustem Pasha	18
43	Mr. Maclure ..	Telegraphic	28,	Turkish land-owners in Servia. Three paid in full yesterday	18
44	Mr. Kirby Green ..	7 Telegraphic	29,	Montenegrin boundary. Postponement of erection of boundary marks west of Lake Scutari	18
45	Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha	..	18,	Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission. To renew representations respecting	18
46	Mr. Wyndham .	10 Telegraphic	31,	Lebanon. Objections of French Government to re-election of Rustem Pasha	19
47	To Embassies (except Constantinople)	Telegraphic	31,	Lebanon. Desirability of re-election of Rustem Pasha	19
48	To Mr. Wyndham .	30	31,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. As to informing Porte of course adopted with regard to communication of Final Act of International Commission	19
49	To Mr. Lascelles .	5	31,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. Instructions as to communication of Final Act to Bulgarian Government	20
50	To Mr. White ..	1	31,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. Instructions as to communication of Final Act to Roumanian Government	20
51	To Mr. White and Mr. Lascelles	..	31,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. Transmits copy of Act of Bulgarian Frontier Commission (see above)	21
52	To Count Károlyi ..	..	31,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. Her Majesty's Representatives at Bucharest and Sophia instructed as above	21
53	Mr. Kirby Green ..	7	16,	Montenegrin boundary. Conversation with Turkish Commissioner. His complaint of Scutari authorities	21
54	„ „ ..	8	17,	Montenegrin boundary. Transmits copy of Protocol signed on 10th instant by Turkish and Montenegrin Commissioners	22
55	„ „ ..	9	17,	Lawless state of Scutari. Transmits copy of despatch to Mr. Wyndham	23
56	„ „ ..	10 Confidential	18,	Montenegrin frontier. Abdi Pasha said to be secretly urging Kraïnotes to resist ..	23

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
57	Mr. Kirby Green ..	11	Jan. 18, 1883	Mission to Scutari of Aide-de-camp of Osman Pasha. Despatch to Mr. Wyndham .	24
58	„ „ ..	12	20,	Montenegrin frontier. Encounters between Montenegrins and Albanians on Podgoritza Plain	24
59	„ „ ..	13	23,	Montenegrin frontier. Arrangements for occupation of the Kraia by Montenegro ..	25
60	Sir H. Elliot .	37	30,	Abdi Pasha. Count Kálnoky hears that he assumed position of Military Governor of Scutari without authority	25
61	Sir A. Paget .	3 Telegraphic	Feb. 1,	Lebanon Governorship. Italian Government will support renewal of Rustem Pasha's appointment	26
62	Sir E. Thornton .	7 Telegraphic	2,	Lebanon Governorship. Russian Government will not oppose renewal of Rustem Pasha's appointment	26
63	To Mr. White ..	Telegraphic	2,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. Instructions go to him to-night ..	26
64	To Mr. Lascelles ..	Telegraphic	2,	Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission. Complaints of Porte. To report at once on ..	26
65	„ „ .	8	2,	Extends above	26
66	Mr. Egerton ..	13	Jan. 28,	Turco-Greek frontier. Line of European Commission being adhered to near Sidheropolouki, Gounitza, &c.	27
67	Mr. Wyndham ..	71	30,	Montenegrin frontier. Italian Government advise Porte to settle the whole line with the Montenegrin Government . ..	27
68	„ „ ..	13 Telegraphic	Feb. 6,	Lebanon Governorship. Austrian Ambassador instructed to support Rustem Pasha ..	27
69	Mr. Kirby Green ..	14	Jan. 24,	Montenegrin frontier. Turkish proposal for demarcation of portion of. Note from Montenegrin Government respecting ..	27
70	„ „ ..	15	27,	Occupation of the Kraia by Montenegro without resistance . ..	28
71	„ „ .	16	27,	Chiefs of Hotti, Gruda, and Castrati tribes state that they will not permit the transference of their lands to other hands ..	29
72	„ „ .	18	28,	Montenegrin frontier. Has advised Turks to ask Prince Nicholas to extend term for fulfilment of Protocol	29
73	Admiralty	..	Feb. 7,	State of affairs in Northern Syria. Report from Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Superb" ..	30
74	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	8,	Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission. Instructions sent to Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia	32
75	Consul-General Blunt	2	Jan. 29,	Improved state of affairs in Epirus and Macedonia	32
76	Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	Feb. 11,	Montenegrin frontier. Delay that has occurred in carrying out recent arrangement is no fault of the Porte	33
77	Mr. Lascelles ..	6	Jan 27.	Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission. Report on	34
78	Sir H. Elliot ..	46	Feb. 9,	Bulgarian tribute. Austrian Government ready to join in discussion of question	38
79	To Embassies (except Constantinople)	..	13,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. To invite Powers to join Her Majesty's Government in taking steps for settlement of these questions ..	38
80	Mr. Kirby Green ..	19	5,	Montenegrin frontier. Protocol of the 10th January. Delay in execution of ..	39
81	Viscount Lyons ..	140	15,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Note to French Government in sense of No. 79	40
82	Lord Ampthill .	62	16,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Minister for Foreign Affairs must reserve reply until he has communicated with Prince Bismarck (see No. 79)	41
83	Mr. Wyndham ..	96	10,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. Austrian Ambassador thinks no further communication to Porte necessary	42
84	„ „ ..	102 Confidential	12,	Turco-Montenegrin frontier. Language held to Said Pasha respecting incapacity of Abdi Pasha	42
85	„ „ ..	103 Confidential	12,	Montenegrin frontier. Count Corti thinks moment inopportune for intervention of Powers	43
86	„ „ ..	108	13,	Disgraceful state of affairs at Scutari under Abdi Pasha. Attention of Porte called to ..	44

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
87	Mr. White ..	11 Confidential	Feb. 13, 1883	Roumano-Bulgarian boundary. As to communication of Final Act to Powers concerned	44
88	Sir H. Elliot ..	53 Confidential	16,	Presence of Prince Karageorgevitch at Cettinjé. Views of Count Kálnoky respecting	44
89	Memorandum by Major Sale	..	19,	Montenegrin frontier. Proposed modification of Protocol of the 10th January. Observations on	45
90	Mr. Kirby Green ..	20	7,	Agitation among North Albanian tribesmen. Despatch to Embassy	45
91	„ „ ..	21	9,	Montenegrin frontier. Delay in carrying out Protocol of the 10th January. Note from Montenegrin Government	46
92	„ „ ..	22	10,	Montenegrin frontier. Failure of Turkey to carry out Protocol engagements. Circular issued to Representatives at Cetujé by Montenegrin Government .. .	47
93	„ „ .	27	13,	Attack on Scutari by North Albanian mountaineers	48
94	Mr. Drummond ..	15 Telegraphic	20,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Austrian Government will join Powers in obtaining settlement .	49
95	„ „ ..	58	20,	Extends above	49
96	Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha	..	8,	Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission. Impediments thrown in the way of . ..	50
97	„ „ ..	..	13,	Bulgarian military preparations. Report from Turkish Commercial Agent at Varna ..	50
98	To Mr. Kirby Green .	Telegraphic	22,	Alleged incitement of Albanians towards annexation to Greece by General Williams ..	51
99	Mr. Kirby Green ..	8 Telegraphic	23.	Nothing known in Albania respecting above .	51
100	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	24,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Her Majesty's Government are in communication with other Powers respecting	51
101	Mr. White.. ..	15	19,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. Action taken by Representatives at Bucharest with a view to making communication to Roumania	52
102	„ „	16	21,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. Copy of collective note communicating to Roumanian Government the Final Act of the International Boundary Commission	52
103	Memorandum by Count Kálnoky	..	22,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Suggests instructions to Representatives at Constantinople respecting	53
104	Mr. Kirby Green ..	28	13,	Montenegrin frontier. Points out misapprehensions existing at Porte relative to recent negotiations	54
105	„ „ ..	30	16,	North Albanian movements. Feeling in Scutari with regard to .. .	54
106	Sir A. Paget ..	69	22,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Italy will join other Powers in obtaining settlement of these questions	55
107	To Mr. Lascelles ..	13	28,	Military preparations in Bulgaria. Transmits No. 97 for report . ..	56
108	Mr. Egerton ..	17	22,	Indemnity to be paid to Turkey for State lands in Thessaly. Movements of Commission ..	56
109	Mr. Lascelles ..	8	17,	Petition of Mussulman Deputies in Bulgarian Chamber	56
110	Consul-General Blunt.	3	19,	Preparations in Bulgaria for an insurrectionary movement in Macedonia ..	57
111	„ „ ..	4	20,	Transmits copy of despatch to Embassy with reference to above	58
112	Mr. Wyndham ..	134 Confidential	26,	State of Scutari Vilayet under Abdi Pasha. Conversation with Turkish Ministers ..	58
113	Sir E. Thornton ..	50	27,	Bulgarian tribute. Share of Ottoman debt to be borne by Principality. Views of Russian Government	59
114	Viscount Lyons ..	185	Mar. 7,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. French Minister for Foreign Affairs promises to look into ..	60
115	Mr. Lascelles .	8 Telegraphic	8,	Varna Railway	60
116	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	8,	Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission. Her Majesty's Government are in communication with Powers	60
117	To Mr. Wyndham ..	78	9,	Montenegrin frontier. Approves language reported in No. 84. Transmits copies of Nos. 76 and 121	61

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
118	To Mr. Wyndham ..	79	Mar. 9, 1883	Bulgarian tribute, &c. To hold himself in readiness to discuss with his colleagues ..	61
119	To Embassies (except Constantinople)	..	9,	Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission. To communicate with Powers, and ascertain their views as to steps to be taken ..	61
120	To Mr. Drummond ..	74	9,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Instructions sent to British and Austrian Representatives at Constantinople.	62
121	To Musurus Pasha	..	9,	Montenegrin frontier. Her Majesty's Government cannot interfere in present stage of negotiations	62
122	Count Nigra ..	..	8,	Holy places in Roumania. What answer have Her Majesty's Government given to Porte ?.	63
123	To Mr. Kirby Green .	11	10,	Montenegrin frontier. Views of Her Majesty's Government. Transmits copies of Nos. 76 and 121	63
124	Consul Reade ..	1	8,	Feeling and state of affairs in Epirus and Arta district	63
125	Mr. White.. ..	18	3,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. Note from Roumanian Government acknowledging collective note	64
126	Mr. Wyndham .	149	6,	Montenegrin frontier. Mistake of Grand Vizier as to Kraia and Kucka Krania ..	65
127	Mr. Lascelles ..	9	14,	Resignation of Bulgarian Ministers..	65
128	Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic ..	5,	Property of Mussulman emigrants in Bulgaria. Complaints against Principality ..	65
129	To Count Nigra ..	..	17,	Holy places in Roumania. Substance of reply given by Her Majesty's Government to Porte	68
130	Mr. Lascelles .	10	1,	Roumano-Bulgarian frontier. Collective note of Representatives of Great Powers to Bulgarian Government	68
131	" " ..	11	3,	Bulgarian Budget for 1883.	69
132	Mr. Drummond ..	81	13,	Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission. Conversation with Count Kálnoky. His Excellency's views	69
133	Lord Ampthill ..	99	16,	Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission. Minister for Foreign Affairs promises to look into the question	70
134	Viscount Lyons ..	215	17,	Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission. Note to French Government in sense of No. 119 ..	70
135	Mr. Kirby Green ..	9 Telegraphic	21,	Murder of Montenegrin by Albanians at Scutari	70
136	Sir A. Paget .	94	19,	Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission. Italian Government concur in views of Her Majesty's Government	71
137	Mr. Drummond ..	88	16,	Property of Mussulmans in Bulgaria. Porte's request for good offices of Austria .	72
138	" " ..	94 Confidential	21,	As to alleged Austrian intrigues in North Albania	72
139	Mr. Wyndham ..	166 Confidential	20,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Views of his colleagues. No prospect of meeting of Representatives to discuss at present	73
140	" " ..	167 Very Conf.	20.	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Language of French Ambassador. Observations of Baron Calice on	74
141	" " ..	25 Telegraphic	27.	Armaments in Bulgaria. Assurances received by Porte respecting	74
142	Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	28,	Outrages by Montenegrin bands on Turkish territory. Calls attention to	74
143	To Mr. Wyndham ..	99	29,	Mussulman proprietors in Bulgaria. To inform Porte Her Majesty's Government are consulting Powers	75
144	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	29.	Mussulman proprietors in Bulgaria. Her Majesty's Representatives instructed to call the attention of Powers to	75
145	Sir A. Paget ..	102	27,	Murder of Montenegrin at Scutari (see No 135). Telegram received by M. Mancini respecting	76
146	Musurus Pasha ..	..	30,	Bulgarian Order cannot be allowed. Prince may confer Ottoman Orders	76
147	To Embassies (except Constantinople)	..	30,	Mussulman proprietors in Bulgaria. Transmits copy of No. 128. To call attention of Governments to	76

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. May 1883.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART LXXIII.

No. 1.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 1, 1883.)

(No. 101.)

Sophia, December 11, 1882.

My Lord,

IN the month of February last a Decree, which I regret escaped my notice at the time, was issued by the Prince of Bulgaria, to the effect that the period during which the Mussulman population who had left Bulgaria should be allowed to recover possession of the property they had abandoned in the Principality should be extended to the 1st November of the present year, and that after that date such property should revert to the State, in conformity with Articles 57, 68, 72, and 130 of the Turkish law upon rural property.

On this Decree being brought to the notice of the Sublime Porte, Nihad Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner of Wakoufs and State Property, was instructed to demand its immediate revocation, as being contrary to the XIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, which provides that Mussulman proprietors who may take up their abode outside the Principality may continue to hold there their real property by farming it out, or having it administered by third parties. Nihad Pasha was at the same time instructed to point out that the Articles of the law upon rural property did not apply to the case.

Nihad Pasha having made a representation on the subject to M. Natchevitch on the 13th May, was informed by him that the object of the Decree was to put pressure on the Mussulman proprietors to proceed to the settlement of their claims, but that there was no intention on the part of the Bulgarian Government to put the Decree into execution, and that a further delay would be granted if it were necessary. Nihad Pasha also frequently called the attention of M. Voulcovitch to this question, but being unable to obtain any decisive answer from him, he thought it his duty to make an application to the Prince of Bulgaria by a letter which he addressed to M. Stoiloff, the Chief of His Highness' Chancellerie on the 21st October last. It was probably in consequence of this letter that M. Voulcovitch informed Nihad Pasha that a further Decree would be issued by the Prince extending the delay already granted for a year. In spite, however, of the assurances given both by M. Natchevitch and by M. Voulcovitch, a Decree has lately been published in the official journal extending for two months only, from the 1st November, the period during which the Mussulman proprietors should make good their claims. As this Decree was only published at the end of November, it practically reduced to one month the time at the disposal of the Mussulman proprietors.

Nihad Pasha has in consequence addressed a further despatch to the Sublime Porte, in which he calls attention to the disregard which the Bulgarian Government have displayed in this matter, both to the Suzerain and to the Treaty of Berlin. His Excellency has shown me the correspondence which has passed between him, the Bulgarian Government, and the Sublime Porte on the subject, and intends bringing it to the notice of my colleagues.

I shall take an early opportunity of informing M. Stoiloff, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, that I have addressed a despatch to your Lordship with regard to this question, and I shall repeat to him the language which I held to M. Voulcovitch, as reported in my despatch No. 159 of the 15th November, 1881, which I had the satisfaction of learning by your despatch No. 81 of the 19th December of last year had met with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 2.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 1, 1883.)

E
(No. 95. Confidential.)

Bucharest, December 23, 1882.

My Lord,

INFORMATION has been received at Bucharest, and has since been confirmed by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Galatz, according to which boats of the new Odessa Navigation Company, organized between Russian and Bulgarian ports by Prince Gagarin, have been employed in conveying munitions of war for the use of the Bulgarian Government.

For my part I cannot see anything surprising in this. It is a well-known fact that the Bulgarian army is in every respect organized on the Russian pattern, and provided with artillery and rifles from that Empire; it is therefore but natural that it should derive its stores of ammunition, cartridges, powder, &c., from the same source, and the Gagarin boats will no doubt contribute to facilitate the transport of these, whilst attracting as little attention as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 3.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 1, 1883.)

(No. 1139.)

Constantinople, December 23, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 679 of the 11th instant, and to state that I to-day brought the substance of Mr. Green's despatch No. 94 of the 10th ultimo on the serious abuses which exist in Northern Albania to the notice of the Grand Vizier, and that I begged his Highness to make a note of the names of the towns in the Kossova Vilayet mentioned by Mr. Green, which he did.

Said Pasha assured me that the matter had been under the serious consideration of the Council of Ministers, and that he was of opinion that the measures they had decided upon would be sufficient to restore order.

I have already in my despatch No. 1109 of the 11th instant informed your Lordship that in consequence of Mr. Kirby Green's report I had brought the apathy of the authorities at Scutari to the notice of the Porte, and that I had been assured that the Vali was to be dismissed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 4.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 1, 1883.)

E
(No. 1144. Confidential.)

Constantinople, December 24, 1882.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 1125 of the 18th instant I had the honour to report to your Lordship that I had intimated to the Sublime Porte the conditions under which Her Majesty's Government was prepared to resume operations for the delimitation of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier. I have now the honour to state that I have been informed by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that Prince Nicholas has

expressed himself as willing to give up the villages as he had promised, so that the village and heights of Matagosch will remain to Turkey, she giving compensation in the vicinity of Sertch.

I was given to understand also that the frontier to the east of the Lake of Scutari had been settled, and that Dinosch and Grudi were left to Turkey.

Bedri Bey, the Turkish Commissioner, has, I am likewise informed, been very well received by the Prince of Montenegro, but fears are entertained at the Porte lest foreign intrigues should oppose difficulties to a satisfactory arrangement being come to directly between Turkey and Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 5.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 1, 1883.)

E
(No. 1146. Confidential.)

Constantinople, December 26, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in compliance with the orders contained in your despatch No. 687 of the 11th instant, I have communicated confidentially with the Porte on the complaints of the Mahommedan refugees in Scutari from the towns and territories ceded to Montenegro under the Treaty of Berlin, as set forth in Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 92 of the 2nd ultimo, and its inclosure. The Sublime Porte have given me to understand that it would shortly take the initiative in bringing the complaints in question to the notice of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin; that I should have early intimation of the steps they proposed taking; and that care would be taken that no mention were made in their communication to the Powers of Her Majesty's Government or of Mr. Kirby Green.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 6.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 1, 1883.)

(No. 1149. Confidential.)

Constantinople, December 26, 1882.

My Lord,

M. VOULCOVITCH, the Minister for Foreign Affairs for the Principality of Bulgaria, who has been here for some days, has, I understand, asked the Porte to recognize the Bulgarian Order of St. Alexander, which I believe the Prince has lately conferred upon the Emperors of Russia and Germany.

M. Voulcovitch had not, up to yesterday, received a reply from the Porte, and the Turkish Ministers are, I am told, afraid of mentioning the subject to the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 7.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 1, 1883.)

E
(No. 486.)

Berlin, December 29, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 465, Confidential, of the 14th instant, and to your Lordship's telegram No. 332 of the 20th instant, respecting the settlement of the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier, I informed Count Hatzfeldt, on the 21st, that Her Majesty's Government was willing to agree to the Austrian proposal of the 12th December, subject to the concurrence of the other Powers; and to-day the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the absence of Count Hatzfeldt, told me that the German Government was equally ready to accept that proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 8.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 3, 1883.)

(No. 110. Secret.)
My Lord, *Scutari, December* 20, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 95, Secret, of the 14th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a further communication, of which I herewith inclose a translation, from the Mirdite Prenk Gjoka, on the subject of his proceedings in Mirdicia.

I had been informed that Gjoka had succeeded in passing into Montenegro, but his friends assure me that, being quite safe in the mountains, he has not found it necessary to leave, and I believe he has lately received fresh instructions from his employers, together, probably, with some little money.

I again have taken every step in my power, without denouncing him to the Turkish authorities, to make Gjoka understand that he is labouring under a gross mistake if he really believes that he is working for the English, and that he must expect no protection or assistance from me should he fall into Turkish hands.

I have also, through other sources, endeavoured to have it published in Mirdicia, that the English are utter strangers to the proceedings of Gjoka and his friends.

Although Gjoka states that an insurrection is ready to break out in Mirdicia, still I do not believe anything will arise unless more money than has yet been employed reaches the Mirdites.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Prenk Gjoka to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Translation.) *Mirdicia, December* 18, 1882.

IT is now two years that I have not seen my family. At present I have come to Mirdicia for the object about which you have heard. You are earnestly prayed by me to save my family and also my little boy, for the revolution in favour of the English, and also the Greeks, is ready.

Your good patriot,
(Signed both in Italian and Greek) PRENK GJOKA.

No. 9.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 3, 1883.)

E
(No. 112. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, December* 23, 1882.

WITH reference to the mention made in the concluding paragraphs of my despatch No. 106 of the 8th instant, of Riza Bey's idea to have the permanent marks of the already delimitated frontier between Lake Scutari and the mouth of the River Boyana at once placed by Bedri Bey and the Montenegrin Boundary Commissioner, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received information, from a source which I consider most trustworthy, that the inhabitants of the Kraïa have entered into a pact ("bessa") among themselves to shoot Bedri Bey whenever he should appear on their part of the frontier for the purpose of fixing the boundaries.

This pact, I have no doubt, comprises all Boundary Commissioners who may accompany Bedri Bey, and, in my opinion, it would be highly imprudent to disregard it.

I think no attempt should be made to place boundary marks in the direction in question, even should the Turkish authorities improve in Scutari, until the Montenegrins had approximately occupied in force the frontier there assigned to them.

I have frequently alluded, in my despatches to your Lordship, to the fact that most of the district of the Kraïa has, as yet, been left to itself by the Montenegrin Government, and that its inhabitants continue to pay, in a kind of voluntary way, taxes to the Scutari Treasury, as they have understood, if they did not do so, they

would not be allowed to have free access to the Scutari market, where they obtain their necessary supplies of grain. Hence the determination of the Kraïnotes to endeavour to maintain their present rather exceptional position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 10.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 6, 1883.)

(No. 171.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, December* 31, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 157 of the 23rd ultimo, on the subject of the treatment of numerous Christian inhabitants of Old Servia who had been arrested more than a year ago on the charge of conspiracy against the Porte, I regret to say that I had the painful duty yesterday of communicating to the wife of one of them, a schoolmaster, the intelligence that her husband had been banished for ten years to the fortress of Acre. In his case the sentence will probably prove to be one of slow death.

I spoke in the evening with my Turkish colleague on the subject of these exiles. He was apparently well acquainted with the matter. He said that the whole lot of them had been sent to the large fortress of Acre, where they would find plenty of work, and a hot and unhealthy climate. I fear my endeavours to interest him in their favour, with a view to his exerting on their behalf any interest he might have with his Government, were thrown away. His Excellency himself had apparently had some hand in their arrest; he believed the evidence of the twice renegade spy who had denounced them to the Ottoman authorities; he considered their guilt had been abundantly proved, and appeared to regret only the lightness of their sentence.

In the course of the conversation his Excellency told me that if his Government had shown less tender-heartedness towards the miscreants who fomented the disturbances which had led to the last war, the Empire would not have been dismembered as it was to-day; that the Porte was wiser now, and would not forget the lesson which had been taught it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 11.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 8, 1883.)

(No. 1158.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 30, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 1144 of the 24th instant on the subject of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier negotiations, I have the honour to state that the latest reports received by the Sublime Porte from their Commissioner in Montenegro assert that Prince Nicolas has suggested to Bedri Bey that the delimitation of the frontier ought to be effected in accordance with the line of delimitation indicated in the note of the Powers dated the 26th June, 1880.

As, however, that line was necessarily modified by the cession of Dulcigno, the Ottoman Government will decline to accept the suggestion of Prince Nicolas, and proposes to instruct Bedri Bey to conform, as far as possible, to the tenour of the note addressed to the Sublime Porte by the Powers on the 15th September, 1880.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 12.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 8, 1883.)

(No. 1159.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 30, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1147 of the 26th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I yesterday put into Aarifi Pasha's hands the

Memorandum his Highness had asked for, giving the substance of Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 105 respecting the murders which have recently taken place at Scutari, in Albania.

I also pointed out to his Highness, with reference to the last paragraph of Mr. Green's despatch No. 104, how essential it was for the Ottoman Government to keep order on the Montenegrin frontier.

Aarifi Pasha, after having read the Memorandum, stated to me that he considered the question of the murders to be of so serious a nature that it would not, in his opinion, be sufficient for him to address a despatch on the subject to the Vali of Scutari. His Highness therefore proposes to bring the facts to the knowledge of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 13.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received January 8.)

E

(No. 3. Confidential.)
Constantinople, January 2, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1065 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch, marked Confidential, which I have received from Major Trotter, on the subject of the proposed erection by the Russian Government of a memorial church in the Shipka Pass.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Major Trotter to Mr. Wyndham.

(Confidential.)
Constantinople, January 1, 1883.

Sir,

IT has come to my knowledge that, shortly after the arrival here of M. de Nelidoff, his Excellency, while dining with the Sultan, obtained from His Majesty a conditional permission for the erection of a memorial chapel in the Shipka Pass, in the vicinity of the graves of the Russian soldiers who fell there during the late war.

The question was subsequently referred to the Minister of War, who disapproved of the proposal on military grounds.

It is thought that when a chapel is constructed, it will naturally be found necessary to have men to take charge of it. This would involve the construction of a second building; the two would probably be connected, and surrounded by a wall; and ultimately a fortified position of considerable strength might be constructed in a position of immense strategic importance, without the Ottoman authorities being able to take steps to prevent it.

I am myself unfamiliar with the ground, but I have been assured by a person who knows the position well that the only place available for the construction of the building proposed is on high ground (about 1,400 metres above sea level) to the west of the road over the Shipka Pass—a very strong position, which commands the approaches both from north and south, and which, if seized by a *coup de main* by Bulgarian troops or others, might easily be held against a greatly superior Turkish force until relieved by strong reinforcements brought up from the north.

The buildings erected, moreover, would probably develop into a convent, which would become a centre of intrigue in time of peace, and would be in a most convenient position for observing the movements of Turkish troops if employed in preparing for the defence of the Balkans.

I believe that communications are still passing between the Russian and Turkish Governments on the above subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Military Attaché.*

No. 14.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received January 8.)

(No. 2.)
St. Petersburgh, January 3, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's Confidential despatch to your Lordship No. 1030 of the 11th November last, I have the honour to inform you that I learn, on good authority, that M. Koiander has been appointed Russian Consul-General at Philippopoli, to succeed M. de Krebel. I have, however, been unable to ascertain the nature of the instructions which are to be given to M. Koiander with regard to the demands recently made by M. de Krebel upon the Governor of Eastern Roumelia.

M. Koiander was Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Peking during the negotiation with regard to the Kuldja territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 15.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 1.)
Vienna, January 3, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE asked Count Kálnoky whether he had any official confirmation of the report of Aleko Pasha having broken off relations with the Russian Consul-General.

His Excellency said that he had seen the statement in the newspapers, but knew nothing more about it, though he thought it very likely to be true.

Of the activity of the Consul-General's intrigues against the Governor there could be no doubt, for he had even gone the length of allowing meetings of the disaffected to be held in his house, and Aleko Pasha appeared to have acted perfectly correctly by bringing the circumstances to the knowledge of the Porte before taking any action himself.

Count Kálnoky has desired Baron Calice, who has just left Vienna to return to his post, to direct very special attention to the state of things in Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 16.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 3.)
Foreign Office, January 12, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 101 of the 11th ultimo relative to the endeavour of the Bulgarian Government to fix a term within which Mussulman proprietors who have left the Principality should be allowed to recover possession of their property; and I approve the observations which you propose to address to M. Stoitoff on the subject.

I have to instruct you also to ascertain the views of your colleagues in the matter, and to concert with them as to the expediency of joining in a collective representation to the Bulgarian Government, pointing out that the Decree of Prince Alexander for carrying out the intention indicated above would operate in violation of the rights secured to Turkish proprietors in the Principality by the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 17.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 13.)

E
(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Athens, January* 4, 1883.

THOUGH the Turks evacuated all the positions on the Greek side of the European frontier-line some days previously, it was not till a day or two ago that the Greek General Grivas sent to take possession of the territory evacuated.

The Commission is not dissolved, as there are still exchanges and arrangements for mutual convenience to be made in the spring by amicable agreement; but the Turco-Greek frontier dispute may be said to be at length at an end.

The most important matter now is that of the Commission for the State Lands.

M. Tricoupi tells me that the relations between the Greek Government and the Porte are at present very friendly; the outward sign of which will be an exchange of decorations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 18.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 15.)

E
(No. 4. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 6, 1883.

AARIFY PASHA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has informed me, confidentially, that Bedri Bey, the Turkish Commissioner for the delimitation of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, has forwarded from Cettinjé to the Porte a Protocol drawn up with the Montenegrin Commissioners, showing the line of frontier they have agreed upon, and that the Porte and the military authorities having examined and approved it, it was about to be submitted for the approbation of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

His Highness stated that, according to the line suggested by the above-mentioned Commissioners, Matagosh remained within the Turkish boundary, and Omer Baza passed to Montenegro.

It appears that the prompt acceptance by the Turkish Government of the line in question is due to the Prince of Montenegro having requested an answer within fifteen days to the proposal, and that the Porte thought it best to accede, for fear of Montenegro raising fresh pretensions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 19.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 15.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 6, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to state that the Sublime Porte has received information to the effect that the Turco-Greek Frontier question has been settled, and that the Hellenic Government is about to send Commissioners to confer with the Ottoman Commissioners on the "Vakouf" property.

This intelligence has given much satisfaction to the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 20.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 15.)

E
(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 9, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4, Confidential, of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that I saw the Grand Vizier yesterday, and that I asked him how

the negotiations were going on with Montenegro for the settlement of the frontier. His Highness did not appear to me altogether satisfied, and stated that a difficulty had arisen as to the boundary at Kucha Kraïna, which, he said, he thought would have to be submitted to the Commissioners of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 21.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 15.)

(No. 6. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January* 11, 1883.

COUNT KÁLNOKY seems to watch with some uneasiness the struggle that is going on at Sophia between the Russian and Bulgarian members of the Prince's Government, the former having intimated that they would resign unless His Highness dismissed M. Voulkovitch.

His Excellency says that he understands the Prince to be disposed to support the Bulgarian party, and that he hardly knew what advice to give him, for while the pretensions of the Russian Ministers were exorbitant, the Prince would be unable to find among his own subjects men capable of properly conducting the Administration, and no foreigners except Russians would be tolerated.

He considers, however, that the Prince would be quite justified in refusing to allow a Russian Minister of Public Works to be imposed upon him, as is contemplated, evidently with a view to Russian rather than Bulgarian interests, the person designed for the post having been brought from St. Petersburgh to Sophia without even the cognizance of His Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 22.

Count Károlyi to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 15.)

M. le Comte, *Belgrave Square, le* 13 *Janvier*, 1883.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir et de communiquer au Gouvernement Impérial et Royal la lettre en date du 21 Décembre dernier, par laquelle votre Excellence a bien voulu m'informer de l'accueil favorable fait par le Gouvernement Britannique à notre proposition au sujet de la notification officielle à faire tant à Bucharest qu'à Sophia des décisions de la Commission Internationale qui, en vertu du Traité de Berlin, avait été chargée de délimiter la frontière de terre entre la Roumanie et la Bulgarie.

Depuis lors toutes les autres Puissances Signataires de ce Traité ont également adhéré à ce mode de procéder pour vider la question susmentionnée.

L'accord entre les Puissances étant ainsi établi, le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal a transmis à son Ministre à Bucharest, ainsi qu'à son Agent à Sophia, le texte de l'Acte Final de délimitation en date du 17 Décembre, 1878, dressé par la Commission Internationale, ainsi qu'un exemplaire de la déclaration identique échangée plus tard entre les Puissances au sujet des modifications adoptées quant aux stipulations des Articles 6 et 7 de l'Acte susmentionné.

Le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois a chargé, en même temps, ses Représentants en Roumanie et en Bulgarie de s'entendre avec leurs collègues des autres Grandes Puissances afin de porter, par note collective, l'ensemble de ces décisions à la connaissance des Gouvernements auprès desquels ils sont accrédités et de les inviter de s'entendre directement entre eux pour la mise à exécution de ces décisions.

J'ai été chargé de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence et d'ajouter l'espoir que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine ne voudra pas tarder à munir d'instructions analogues ses Représentants accrédités à Bucharest et à Sophia, afin de contribuer, de son côté, à ce que le tracé de la frontière de terre entre la Roumanie et la Bulgarie soit enfin définitivement fixé conformément à la lettre et à l'esprit du Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) KÁROLYI.

No. 23.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 15, 8 A.M.)

(No. 6. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 14, 1883, 8 P.M.

I HAVE been informed that yesterday evening an attempt was made by the Circassians still remaining at the Palace to assassinate the Sultan.

Alarm was given by a woman in the harem, upon which the Albanian guard attacked the Circassians, and many persons are said to have been killed and wounded. The troops quartered near the Palace were put under arms.

The Sultan is safe.

The authorities will probably try to keep this secret.

(Sent to Lord Dufferin.)

No. 24.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 17, 1883.)

E
(No. 113.) *Scutari, December* 31, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the fear expressed in the last paragraph of my despatch No. 107 of the 18th instant, that the negotiations opened at Cettinjé by Bedri Bey, the Turkish Boundary Commissioner, would have no satisfactory result, are on the point of realization.

Bedri Bey's proposals have been unhesitatingly rejected by the Montenegrin Government, and he has consequently applied to Constantinople for permission to withdraw to Scutari, and await here the expected reassembling in the spring of the entire Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 25.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 2.) *Scutari, January* 4, 1883.

My Lord,

SABRI BEY, the Assistant Turkish Boundary Commissioner, informs me that he, together with M. Bacić on the part of the Montenegrin Government, visited a few days ago a position on the Podgoritza Plain, near Tousi, called Mourwa, which had lately been occupied by a detachment of Turkish troops, and which the Montenegrin Government stated was within their frontier.

Sabri Bey says that as soon as he arrived on the ground he was obliged to admit the justness of the demand, for earthworks directed against the Turkish lines, which had been raised there by the Montenegrins during the critical times of the spring of 1880, are still intact.

Sabri Bey, however, was unable to make known on the spot his decision in favour of Montenegro, as, besides the Turkish troops, there was present a considerable force of Albanian mountaineers, which he was afraid might commit some act of violence against him; he therefore arranged privately with M. Bacić that both the Turkish and Montenegrin troops should be at once withdrawn from Mourwa, and that afterwards patrols from each side should be occasionally sent along the frontier, which the Turkish patrols would be informed does not extend to the point they had previously occupied.

(Confidential.)

Sabri Bey has confidentially expressed to me his regret that the culpable ignorance and spirit of self-assertion of the Scutari authorities should have placed him in the humiliating position of being obliged to come to a private arrangement with his Montenegrin colleague in order to cover the weakness of the Sultan's rule over the Albanian mountaineers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 26.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January* 4, 1883.

AS there are considerable Roman Catholic communities, principally composed of natives of Scutari, both at Rieka and Cettinjé, a priest is generally sent from this on all important festivals to those towns, for the Superior of the Franciscan Convent of Scutari has hitherto had spiritual jurisdiction over Montenegro as well as over the Great Mountains of North Albania.

The Italian monk, Padre Pietro, was this season intrusted with the Christmas duties in Cettinjé, but on arrival at Rieka, and also at Cettinjé, the police informed him that he would not be allowed, as heretofore, to hold public services.

Padre Pietro stated that unless the injunction was conveyed to him in writing he would persist in the performance of his duty, and it was only after he had celebrated mass on Christmas morning that the Prince's permission to do so was verbally communicated to him, so that his congregation was of the most scanty, the heavy fines which had already been levied on those who had come in contact with the priest having naturally been sufficient to deter many from attending at the religious service.

The Prince's apparent concession was accompanied with an intimation to the Padre to leave the Principality, and not to return again to it.

I believe that this most flagrant and unexpected infraction of the stipulations contained in the second clause of the XXVIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin may be attributed to an injudicious attempt on the part of the Montenegrin Government to force the Vatican to consent to the conclusion of a Concordat with Montenegro, when the Principality might be formed into a separate Bishopric, with a proper number of resident priests.

The Prince is also most anxious to otherwise mark his position as an independent Sovereign, and he therefore not only resents the pretension of the Austro-Hungarian Government to act as a Protector of the Faith (the standing it claims in Albania) in Montenegro, but also every act which may savour of a former connection between the Principality and the Turkish Empire.

Padre Pietro's recent treatment in Montenegro has necessarily caused a considerable revulsion of feeling towards the Principality on the part of the Roman Catholic Albanians, who had commenced to envy the well-being of the Montenegrins. Without, however, trespassing on ground that does not concern me, I shall not fail to take the first favourable occasion of reminding Prince Nicholas that Her Majesty's Government cannot but regret every occasion it is obliged to note that the stipulations contained in the XXVIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin were not quite in the nature of unnecessary precautions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 27.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 3. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 18, 1883.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 110, Secret, of the 20th ultimo, informing me of the steps taken by you to make Prenk Gjoka and his associates understand that they must expect no protection or assistance from you, and that their proceedings in Mirdicia excite no interest in this country.

I have to express my approval of your action as reported in the despatch above mentioned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 28.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 21.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January* 20, 1883.

TWO encounters appear to have occurred to-day, on the frontier near Podgoritza, between Albanian mountaineers and Montenegrins.

Former have had several killed and wounded. I believe present occurrences may be connected with matter reported in my despatch No. 2 of the 4th.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 29.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January* 21, 1883.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, authorities here endeavour to lessen gravity of yesterday's encounter. Total loss on both sides said to be eleven.

The immediate commencement of the placing of the boundary marks on the frontier from the sea to [Shoulddiste?], near Podgoritza, agreed to by the Protocol of the 10th instant between the Montenegrin and Turkish Commissioners, has now been put off for Wednesday next to allow Turkish authorities time to influence natives.

I have been informed secretly that Vali's want of support of Turkish Commissioner has been interpreted by the natives as an encouragement to resist, and that the demarcation is not likely to be effected peaceably.

Lawlessness is on the increase in Scutari.

(Sent to Mr. Wyndham).

No. 30.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, January* 8, 1883.

ON the evening of the 2nd instant I had a conversation with the Prince of Bulgaria, who told me that he had that morning received the deputation from the National Assembly, who had presented to him the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The deputation was headed by M. Anef, who had been dismissed from his post by General Soboleff in consequence of his action on the occasion of the landing of M. Zancoff (which I had the honour to report in my despatches Nos. 95 and 99 of the 1st and 2nd ultimo). In presenting the deputation M. Anef took occasion to express the hope that the Ministry of Public Works, which is at present directed by General Soboleff, should be placed under the control of some person who is subject to the laws of the State; and he expressed at the same time the dissatisfaction which was felt with regard to M. Theocharoff, the Minister of Public Instruction, who is considered to be more of a Russian than a Bulgarian. He added, however, that his remarks about the Ministry of Public Works were not intended to impute any blame to General Soboleff, whose conduct of affairs had given satisfaction.

His Highness told me that he had replied in vague terms to M. Anef's speech, and had taken note of the satisfaction he had expressed with regard to the conduct of General Soboleff. As soon as the deputation had left the Palace His Highness sent for General Soboleff and General Kaulbars in order that he might be the first to inform them of what had taken place.

His Highness went on to say that this incident had placed him in a position of great embarrassment. The Conservatives had been so elated by meeting with no opposition in the Chamber that they fancied themselves strong enough to attack the Russian Ministers, but their strength was not so great as they imagined. The Liberals had hitherto been kept in check, but General Soboleff could easily create an opposition by insisting on the elections for Sophia taking place, which would at once place eight Liberals in the Chamber. His Highness was not yet aware what course the Russian Ministers intended to pursue. It would be impossible for him to accept their resignations without offending the Emperor of Russia, and, on the other hand, they would be scarcely likely to retain their offices without imposing conditions which he might not wish to accept. The situation was rendered still more complicated by the return of M. Voulcovitch, who had made himself so distasteful to the Russian Ministers that the latter had demanded that he should cease to form part of the Cabinet. His Highness was fully aware of the objections which could be raised against M. Voulcovitch, whose duplicity resembled somewhat that of M. Zancoff, but it would be impossible to dismiss him without finding some other post for him, as he possessed great influence in the country, and was too dangerous a man to be summarily dismissed. His Highness thought that it might be possible to appoint him President of the Council of State or Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople. In any case, a Ministerial crisis existed, and His Highness did not see how it was to end.

I told His Highness that it appeared to me that the Conservatives were playing a very dangerous game. I quite understood the difficulty of His Highness' position, and that it was not possible for him to accept the resignation of the Russian Generals even if they should offer it, but even admitting that the Russian Generals should be got rid of, I greatly doubted whether the Conservatives would be able to hold their own against the opposition which they would encounter in the country, and which the Russians in Bulgaria would certainly take advantage of to revenge themselves for the attack made upon their Ministers.

The nomination of Prince Kilkoff as "Adjoint" to the Minister of Public Works, which I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 2 of the 6th instant, may be looked upon as the answer of General Soboleff to M. Anef's speech.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 31.

E *Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 16, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a *note verbale* which I have received from the Porte, in which I am informed that the Ottoman Representative at Bucharest has been charged to communicate to the Roumanian Government the documents drawn up by the Roumano-Bulgarian Frontier Commission, which were confirmed by the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Note Verbale.

LE Ministère des Affaires Étrangères a reçu avec son annexe la note verbale que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu lui adresser le 8 Décembre, 1882, concernant les actes élaborés par la Commission Européenne instituée pour la délimitation de la frontière Roumano-Bulgare.

En réponse, le Ministère Impérial s'empresse d'informer l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté la Reine que le Représentant de la Sublime Porte à Bucharest vient d'être chargé de communiquer, après s'en être entendu avec ses collègues, au Gouvernement Roumain, les actes précités tels qu'ils ont été confirmés par les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, afin qu'il ait à procéder d'accord avec la Principauté de Bulgarie aux travaux de bornage de la dite frontière.

Les communications nécessaires ont été également faites à ce sujet au Gouvernement Princier.

Sublime Porte, le 14 *Janvier*, 1883.

No. 32.

Aarify Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, January* 23.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le* 16 *Janvier*, 1883.

LE résultat négatif des précédentes communications de mon Département m'oblige de revenir sur la question du tribut de la Bulgarie. La fixation de ce tribut, qui doit

avoir lieu conformément à l'Article IX du Traité de Berlin, se fait toujours attendre. Il en est de même de la fixation des parts de la dette publique Ottomane que la Serbie, le Monténégro, et la Bulgarie doivent prendre à leur charge, ainsi que celle que la Grèce est tenue de supporter d'après la Convention du 24 Mai, 1881.

Lorsque la Sublime Porte a exécuté loyalement toutes les obligations qui lui imposait le Traité de Berlin, elle est en droit de s'attendre à ce que les autres parties intéressées en fassent autant. Il serait évidemment injuste de retarder davantage le réglement des questions que je viens de mentionner.

En y appelant toute l'attention de votre Excellence, je la prie de faire auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine des démarches pressantes afin de provoquer le plus tôt possible l'accord nécessaire tant pour la fixation du tribut de la Bulgarie que de la part de notre dette afférente à cette Principauté, à la Serbie, à la Grèce, et au Monténégro.

Le Gouvernement Impérial attache une importance particulière au succès de ces démarches.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. AARIFY.

No. 33.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 3.) *Scutari, January* 23, 1883.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING sent to Mr. Wyndham, under No. 4:—

"Your letter of the 11th ultimo.

"Abdi [? Pasha], instead of being arrested, has been made Military as well as Civil Governor of Scutari.

"This step will probably only aggravate present complications.

"(Sent to Lord Granville.)"

No. 34.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.*—(*Received January* 24.)

(No. 6.) *Scutari, January* 16, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Bedri Bey, the Turkish Montenegro Boundary Commissioner, arrived here yesterday from Cettinjé.

He informs me that he has come to an understanding with the Montenegrin Government on the line of frontier to be followed from the north-eastern shore of Lake Scutari to the end of the Podgoritza Plain, and that a Protocol was signed on the subject on the 8th instant.

Bedri Bey now awaits here the arrival of the Montenegrin Boundary Commissioners, and will, when they come, proceed with them to place the permanent frontier-marks from the mouth of the River Boyana up to the point determined in the before-named Protocol.

No Agreement has yet been arrived at as to the frontier in the vicinity of Gussinjé. The Montenegrin Government has rejected the pretension, put forward by Bedri Bey, that the district of Dulcigno was ceded for that of Gussinjé, as it existed prior to the late war, and that, consequently, a retrocession of territory of upwards of 40 square kilom. must be effected by the Principality to Turkey.

I do not share in Bedri Bey's impression, that Prince Nicholas can be easily led to see the justice of the Turkish claim, although I am not prepared to say that there is not an element of equity in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 35.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 24, 9 A.M.)

(No. 4.) *Scutari, January* 23, 1883.
(Telegraphic.)

TWO battalions have been dispatched from here to reinforce Turkish troops on the frontier near Podgoritza. No further fighting has occurred there, but it is admitted on all sides that if an attempt is made to mark the boundary in that direction, Albanian mountaineers will oppose it.

The Turks imply that foreign intrigues are encouraging the Albanians. To-morrow a large Montenegrin force will march into the Kraina to occupy it. Turkish troops and the Boundary Commissioners will proceed at the same time from this to the Turkish limits and await there Montenegrin advance. A few Mussulmans of Scutari have gone to assist the Kraina inhabitants in their expected resistance. I in no way share the belief of the Turkish officials that the present difficulties are the work of the Montenegrins.

See last paragraph of my despatch No. 106 of the 8th ultimo.

(Sent to Mr. Wyndham.)

No. 36.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 26, 12·42 A.M.)

(No. 5.) *Scutari, January* 25, 1883, 6·20 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

MONTENEGRINS occupied yesterday their portion of the district of the Kraina with six battalions, without encountering any resistance. An unusually heavy fall of snow will probably delay the commencement of the placing of the boundary marks.

(Telegraphed to Mr. Wyndham.)

No. 37.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 7. Confidential.) *Athens, January* 17, 1883.

My Lord,

I ALLUDED a few days ago, in talking to M. Tricoupi, to his speech about M. Gambetta, and he said that of course he attached the very greatest weight to the friendship of France; that she alone of the great Continental Powers was the one to whom he looked.

By two Powers Greek interests were in some sense threatened—he alluded to Austria and Russia, and said he was delighted to hear that in Bulgaria there was a strong feeling, fostered no doubt by Russia, against any Austrian extension to the Ægean, and said that he trusted these two Parties would keep each other in check, and thus remain passive.

As regards France, it seems to me that M. Tricoupi, though theoretically fond of her, regards her somewhat as the "bourgeois" in the play did the old friend who never ceased reminding him that he had saved his life at school.

He has, to excess, the independent, self-asserting character of his countrymen, and instead of allowing himself to be patronized assumes a tone unsuited to the Minister of a petty, weak State, and most shocking to the Representatives of the Northern Courts, who measure their respect for a country by the number of its trained soldiers.

It is well, however, that it should be understood that M. Tricoupi, though from time to time his Ministry may be upset, is now the one inevitable man with whom those dealing with Greece must count: his position in Greece, for instance, is relatively more commanding than was that of M. Gambetta in France; no other can occupy his place here for long.

His language most openly expresses the views of his countrymen, too openly perhaps; but his want of caution—his main failing—is what is most easily forgiven here, though it does him most harm abroad.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 38.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received January 27.)

E
(No. 10. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, January* 18, 1883.

I SPOKE confidentially yesterday to M. Tricoupi in the words of your Lordship's despatch No. 102 of the 11th ultimo, conveying your warning against exciting trouble in Albania, having previously told him as much from Mr. Kirby Green's despatch as related to the agitating activity of persons believed to have been sent by the Greek Government.

He said he was aware that Gjoka, the Mirdite, had been making himself obnoxious to the authorities, and that he had nothing to do with him.

As regards Emin Karysas, it was true that he was employed in the Greek service, he had been in his (M. Tricoupi's) house at Athens, and had frequently addressed letters to him—letters which remained unanswered.

When I said that such stupid tactless agitation as that reported could do Greece no good, but on the contrary much harm, he most perfectly agreed with me.

He could not oppose, and had indeed, as in the instance of Emin Karysas, encouraged friendly intercourse with Albanians; he wished to keep up sympathy for Greece in Albania, but to encourage agitation and foment disorder was another matter, that he would oppose by every means in his power. To agitate would be only playing into the hands of Austria by giving a handle to accusations against Greece—exhibiting her as a public nuisance.

I asked him what I was to say to your Lordship in answer to your representation.

He replied that I might assure your Lordship that the Greek Government will not only not foment but will discourage disorder in Albania for this year and the next certainly, and he hoped for much longer. Personally, he would like the quiet to last a considerable time, but it is impossible, especially in this part of the world, he said, to know what turn events may take.

[I do not attach the slightest importance to the term "this year and the next." I only repeat it as characteristic.]

His policy, he went on to say, as he has said to me on so many occasions, is to keep a good understanding with Turkey for as long as possible. He would prefer the inevitable crisis to be postponed for a generation at least, when Greece may be more consolidated and less likely to be left out in the cold. Besides, a prolonged period of quiet must necessarily strengthen the intelligent Greek element in Turkey. He most thoroughly agreed with me as to the evil consequences following the employment of irresponsible agents, who, with their self-importance and fussy folly, discredit and compromise the Government that employs them.

I asked him for particulars respecting M. Marinaki, the new Greek Consul at Scutari, and he assured me that he was a steady man who would obey instructions, who would not show zeal on his own account or aid in fomenting disorders which he was told to discourage.

Whilst talking on the subject of Albania, M. Tricoupi told me that the Porte was evidently showing uneasiness, and concentrating troops near Catarina with the view of checking some threatened disturbance. He did not know exactly what had caused this anxiety—there was evidently some fermentation amongst some of the tribes, more especially about Dibra, but he was not as well informed as he would like to be on these Albanian matters, in which he took great interest—indeed he had never yet clearly understood the nature and objects of the Albanian League.

The object of M. Tricoupi is, as far as I can judge from his language, to conciliate and foster Greek sympathies amongst the Albanians, a people in which he seems especially interested. He has more than once pointed out to me that the Albanian is the most manly element in the Greek Kingdom.

But his object is also to keep on very good terms with the Porte, and to do nothing to provoke her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 39.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received January 27.)

E
(No. 11. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, January* 18, 1883.

IN insisting as he does on the advantage of a good understanding with the Porte, M. Tricoupi feels, he says, that Greek interests in Turkey have very much suffered from the constant bickerings between the two countries.

Whilst the Russian Embassy generally keeps on friendly terms with the Porte—when their two countries are not actually at war—and obtains as favours through the Porte itself benefits for her Slav and other Christian protégés, Greece, without fighting, had always been quarrelling with the Porte, who very naturally bestowed few favours on the Greeks. The result of this cat-and-dog life was injurious to the Greek element in Turkey as compared with the Slav.

There were many matters in which all depended on good relations existing between the Governments.

Thus, for instance, there was the regulation respecting the Christian schools. The Porte now required to know whence the sums proceeded which supported them.

The Russians would no doubt get over the difficulty, but were the Greek relations with the Porte now what they frequently were, the result might be that a large number of Greek schools in Turkey might be closed.

There were other matters respecting churches in which it was especially important to be favoured by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 40.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January* 26, 1883.

TURKISH Boundary Commissioners, on pretence of not finding their Montenegrin colleagues at appointed place of meeting on Wednesday last, returned to Scutari. Montenegrins, who, however, were already at their post, have now sent to inquire reason of Turkish default.

Bedri Bey pretends to be ill, declines to depute Sub-Commissioner, and states that he can take no further steps without fresh instructions from Constantinople. As I stated yesterday, the Montenegrins are completely masters in their own portion of the Kraïna, so whatever difficulties exist are entirely dependent on the Turks.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 41.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received January 28.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 27, 1883, 10 P.M.

IMPERIAL Decree had been sent to the Porte ordering the re-election of Rustem Pasha, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs was on the point of convoking the Representatives of the Great Powers to discuss as to the Governorship of the Lebanon, when the French Ambassador requested him to delay doing so. Neither the Austrian, Italian, nor German Ambassadors have any instructions on the subject, but I think it possible that France may endeavour to induce their Governments to send them orders to object to his Excellency's appointment.

No. 42.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received January 28, 4·15 P.M.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 28, 1883, 12·40 P.M.*

MY telegram No. 8 of yesterday.

Russian Minister has no instructions, but appears inclined to favour Rustem Pasha's re-election.

No. 43.

Mr. Maclure to Earl Granville.—(Received January 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, January 28, 1883, 9 P.M.*

HAVE been informed by the Finance Minister that three Turkish proprietors in the annexed provinces were paid in full yesterday, and that he hoped that, in the course of six months, all claims would be settled.

No. 44.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January 29, 1883.*

I AM informed that, through the representations of the Vali of Scutari and the natives of Kraïna who are in the Imperial Body-guard, Sultan has been induced to order postponement of the erection of the boundary marks to west of Lake Scutari agreed upon in the Turco-Montenegrin Protocol of 10th instant. Said Pasha was yesterday, for a considerable time, in personal telegraphic communication with the Vali and the Boundary Commissioner here, urging them to find a means [? for] overcoming difficulties which the engagements of this Protocol have raised.

My Turkish colleague at Cettinjé, who has been ordered to return to Montenegro immediately, having solicited my advice, I have expressed the opinion that the only course to follow is to frankly admit to Prince Nicholas Porte's present inability to fulfil terms of Protocol owing to [?] state of the mountains, to the incapacity of the local authorities to overcome it.

All further attempts to carry out present engagements are only likely to lessen Porte's prestige here, and to cause hostilities either between Montenegrins and Albanians or the Turks and Albanians.

I do not concur in a suggestion that it is opportune for the Turkish Government to coerce the Albanian Christians Montenegrins [*sic*].

No 45.

Aarify Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, January 31.)

E
M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 18 Janvier*, 1883.

J'AI reçu la dépêche que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le 30 Décembre dernier, pour me rendre compte de sa démarche auprès de son Excellence Lord Granville concernant les travaux de la Commission Turco-Bulgare.

Le Rapport que le Consul-Général de la Grande-Bretagne à Sophia a été invité à préparer à ce sujet ne peut, à moins de raisons toutes spéciales, que confirmer nos assertions. Convaincus de la justice de notre cause, nous attendrions avec confiance le résultat de toute enquête nouvelle si le caractère pressant de l'affaire ne nous imposait pas le devoir de poursuivre une prompte solution.

Les difficultés et les obstacles que nos Commissaires ont rencontrés jusqu'ici menacent, en se prolongeant, de ruiner complètement nos intérêts déjà si gravement compromis. Il importe daviser dès à présent aux moyens de prévenir les conséquences éventuelles d'une situation que nous n'avons pas créée.

Je prie, par conséquent, votre Excellence de renouveler ses démarches à l'effet

d'obtenir l'envoi des instructions voulues au Consulat-Général de la Grande-Bretagne à Sophia. Je dois ajouter que la plupart des Puissances Co-Signataires du Traité de Berlin se sont montrées disposées à agir auprès du Gouvernement Princier dans le sens que nous désirons.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. AARIFY.

No. 46.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31, 3·45 P.M.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 31, 1883, 11·50 A.M.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me, confidentially, that the French Government have declared that they would consider Rustem Pasha's re-election as an act of hostility on the part of Turkey to France.

His Highness is anxious to know whether Her Majesty's Government can influence the French Government to withdraw from their opposition.

The attitude of France in this matter appears to make the Porte uneasy.

No. 47.

*Earl Granville to Sir E. Thornton.**

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 31, 1883, 7·5 P.M.*

RUSTEM PASHA'S ten years' term of office expires on the 22nd April, and it will shortly be necessary to provide for the appointment of a Governor-General of the Lebanon.

It appears very desirable, in the interests of order and good government, that Rustem's appointment should be renewed. Her Majesty's Government have so instructed their Chargé d'Affaires at the Porte, and they trust that the Government to which you are accredited will feel themselves able to send similar instructions to their Representative at Constantinople.

No. 48.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 30.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 31, 1883.*

IN reply to my Circular despatch of the 28th November, relative to the question of officially communicating to the Roumanian Government the Final Act of the International Commission laying down the land-line of frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria, the Austro-Hungarian Government proposed that a similar communication should also be made to the Bulgarian Government by the Representatives of the Powers at Sophia, and that the Porte should be informed of the course adopted.

I inclose copies of two notes which I have received from the Austrian Ambassador at this Court,† together with copies of the instructions which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Bucharest and Sophia,‡ from which you will perceive that Her Majesty's Government have assented to this proposal.

It appears from your despatch No. 35 of the 16th instant, that the Turkish Government have already acted upon the suggestion contained in my Circular despatch, and I have to instruct you to consult with the Austrian Ambassador as to the steps which it may be desirable for the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople to take, with a view of making to the Porte the communication suggested by the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

---

* Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 10), Lord Ampthill (No. 6), Viscount Lyons (No. 7), and Sir A. Paget (No. 7).

† See Part LXXII, No. 133; and *ante*, No. 22.

‡ Nos. 49 and 50.

No. 49.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 5.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 31, 1883.

THE Roumanian Minister informed me in a note of the 14th November, of which I inclose a copy,* that the Roumanian Government had declined to accede to a proposal from the Bulgarian Government to appoint a Commission for the purpose of laying down boundary marks on the land-line of frontier between the two countries as determined by the International Commission, on the ground that their Award had never been communicated to Roumania.

Her Majesty's Government accordingly consulted the Powers Signatory to the Treaty of Berlin as to the advisability of bringing the Award officially to the knowledge of the Roumanian Government, and the Austro-Hungarian Government have proposed, as you will perceive from the accompanying copies of notes which I have received from the Austrian Ambassador, that a similar communication should also be made to the Government of Bulgaria.

Her Majesty's Government having assented to this proposal, I have to instruct you to come to an understanding with your Austrian colleague, and with the Representatives of the other Signatory Powers, who have also assented to the Austro-Hungarian proposals, with a view to making the necessary communication to the Bulgarian Government.

I transmit, for your information, a copy of the map, prepared by the Intelligence Branch of the War Office, showing the line of frontier laid down by the Commission.

It will probably not be necessary that you should present it to the Bulgarian Government, as, at Count Károlyi's request, I have recently furnished him with copies of it, which are probably intended for presentation to the Governments of Roumania and Bulgaria.

The acceptance by the Turkish Government of the Final Act of the Commission was communicated to you in my despatch No. 17 of the 24th February, 1882.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 50.

Earl Granville to Mr. White.

(No. 1.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 31, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 32 of the 8th December, inclosing copy of my Circular despatch relative to the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria, I have to inform you that the Austro-Hungarian Government have proposed that the Final Act of the International Boundary Commission should be communicated to both the Governments concerned. Her Majesty's Government have assented to that proposal.

I inclose copies of two notes which I have received from the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador on the subject,† and I have to instruct you to come to an understanding with your Austrian colleague, and with the Representatives of the other Powers, parties to the Treaty of Berlin, with a view to making the necessary communication to the Roumanian Government.

I also transmit, for your information, a copy of the map prepared by the Intelligence Branch of the War Office, showing the line of frontier laid down by the Commission.

It will probably not be necessary for you to present it to the Roumanian Government, as, at Count Károlyi's request, I have recently furnished him with copies of it, which are probably intended for presentation to the Governments of Roumania and Bulgaria.

The acceptance by the Turkish Government of the Final Act of the Commission was communicated to you in my despatch, No. 12 of the 24th February, 1882.

I have addressed a similar instruction to Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

---

* See Part LXXII, No. 44.

† Ibid., No. 133; and *ante*, No. 22.

No. 51.

Earl Granville to Mr. White.‡

(No. 2.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 31, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1 of this day, I transmit to you herewith a copy of the Act of the Bulgarian Frontier Commission of the 17th December, 1878,† appointed under the Treaty of Berlin, together with a copy of a note in which the Signatory Powers recorded their adoption of that Act,‡ together with the modifications of Articles VI and VII relating to the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier-line, which were subsequently agreed to as specified in the Annex which accompanies it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 52.

Earl Granville to Count Károlyi.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, January* 31, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 13th instant, informing me that the Austro-Hungarian Government have instructed their Minister at Bucharest and their Agent at Sophia to come to an understanding with their colleagues, with a view to communicating to the Governments of Roumania and Bulgaria in collective notes the Final Act of the International Commission laying down the boundary between the two countries.

I have the honour to thank your Excellency for this information, and to state that I have instructed Her Majesty's Representatives at Bucharest and Sophia to join with their Austrian colleague and with the Representatives of the other Powers, parties to the Treaty of Berlin, in making the necessary communication to the Governments concerned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 53.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February* 1.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord, *Scutari, January* 16, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, when Bedri Bey called on me this afternoon to announce that he and the Montenegrin Commissioners would shortly proceed to place the permanent boundary marks from the mouth of the River Boyana up to Gradiste, in the neighbourhood of Podgoritza, I inquired of him whether he had taken any steps to ascertain the value of the information I had requested Sabri Bey to convey to him as to the hostile intentions of the natives of Kraïa against the Delimitation Commissioners and him in particular.

Bedri Bay said that he was unable to disguise from himself that there was danger in the task before him, and that even Prince Nicholas had warned him that it was necessary to proceed with caution in order to avoid the occurrence of untoward incidents with the Kraïnotes. He had, consequently, summoned the Chiefs of the Kraïa to Scutari to explain to them the futility of any attempt on their part at resistance, and he had solicited the support of both the Vali and the Military Commander here.

Bedri Bey expressed himself, however, as much disheartened at having to work under the weight of Abdi Pasha's incapacity and apathy. Two years ago he had left with the authorities here a tracing of the frontier from the sea to the western shores of Lake Scutari that they might, in the interval, communicate it to the native populations affected by it, but, instead of this having been done, he found the authorities

* Also to Mr. Lascelles (No. 6).

† Blue Book "Turkey No. 2 (1879)," p. 150.

‡ August 9, 1880.

carefully ignoring the cessions made to Montenegro, and Abdi Pasha had even refused within the last ten days, to support the arrangements concluded at Cettinjé.

The Turkish Boundary Commissioner said, whilst the Montenegrins had already set in motion their part of the work, he, Bedri Bey, was obliged to lose time in telegraphing complaints to Constantinople against the Scutari authorities, and to run the risk of appearing before the Montenegrin Government as unwilling to carry out the engagements formally entered into by him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 54.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 1.)

E
(No. 8.)

My Lord, *Scutari, January* 17, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit, herewith, a copy of the Protocol of the 10th instant (not 8th as stated in my previous despatch), signed at Cettinjé, between the Montenegrin and Turkish Boundary Commissioners, on the subject of the definitive demarcation of the frontier from the mouth of the River Boyana to Gradiste, near Podgoritza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Protocole No. 3 de la Commission Mixte pour la Délimitation du Monténégro.—Séance du 29 Décembre, 1882. / 10 Janvier, 1883.

A l'ouverture de la séance MM. les Délégués Monténégrins prennent la parole pour annoncer que, d'ordre de Son Altesse le Prince, le Gouvernement de la Principauté consent, sous les conditions suivantes, à la délimitation pour cette saison de la frontière du Lac de Scutari jusqu'à Gradiste :—

1. La frontière partira du nord-est du Lac de Scutari du point 19 de la carte du Commissaire Anglais, et suivra la ligne de la Commission Européenne jusqu'à 2 kilom. au sud du point 20 de la même carte ; de là, la frontière se dirigera sur un point sis à égale distance entre les villages Goshik et Matagoush, en laissant ce dernier à la Turquie. Puis contournant les villages de Matagoush et de Vladuja, elle rejoindra la ligne de la Commission Européenne à 4 kilom. au-delà du point 23 de la carte Anglaise.

De là, elle se dirigera en ligne directe vers la rivière de Zem qu'elle atteindra à 100 mètres à l'ouest du pont sub No. 24, qui restera à la Turquie. Elle continuera ensuite vers un point sis à 100 mètres au sud des ruines des maisons d'Omer Bojo qu'elle laissera au Monténégro pour de là aboutir au point de Gradiste de la carte précitée.

2. Ce tracé est accepté par le Monténégro à condition que l'on procède dans le plus bref délai (dans quinze jours au plus tard) au bornage (1) du point 19 de la carte Anglaise jusqu'à Gradiste ; (2) de la ligne sise entre le lac et la mer. Les Commissaires des deux États pourront toutefois s'entendre pour la pose simultanée des bornes sur les deux lignes précitées.

3. Si par la faute des Commissaires Ottomans et à moins d'un cas de force majeure, il n'est pas procédé au placement des bornes dans le délai ci-dessus fixé, le Gouvernement Princier se considérera délié de tout engagement antérieur à l'endroit des villages de Matagoush et de Vladuja, et reviendra purement et simplement à la ligne Granville.

4. Les deux parties s'engageront à présenter en temps et lieu à la sanction des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin le tracé conclu dans l'Article I.

Bedri Bey déclare accepter au nom de son Gouvernement les propositions susénoncées.

(Here follow the signatures.)

No. 55.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 9.)

My Lord, *Scutari, January* 17, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed this day by me to Mr. Wyndham, on the continuance of lawlessness in Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Scutari, January* 17, 1883.

THE state of lawlessness in Scutari, now so often the theme of my Reports to Lord Granville and yourself, continues, and as yet there are no indications here of the removal of Abdi Pasha, which the Porte informed you six weeks ago had been decided upon by the Council of State.

On the 13th instant M. le Rée, the French Consul, who was walking with his Italian and Hellenic colleagues, and passing in front of this Consulate-General, was knocked against by the son of one of the most influential Mahommedan Nobles of the place, who was followed by an armed attendant. M. le Rée pushed the native aside, whereupon both he and his servant drew their pistols, but, observing the resolute stand of the French Consul, returned them to their girdles, and then went a short distance off as if to await a more convenient moment for renewing the attack.

M. de Donato and M. Marinakis induced M. le Rée to abstain from taking any further notice of the two men, and to leave the matter in the hands of the local authorities.

The two men the next day surrendered themselves to the police, and have since been kept under arrest.

On the 14th another scene of violence had to be recorded.

The Roman Catholic native merchants, to shelter themselves from the exactions of the Mussulman bullies, had lately secured the services of two Christian mountaineers of known courage. The success attending this step greatly irritated the Mahommedans and local authorities, and I immediately divined, when I heard a sharp fusillade and observed a considerable commotion in town, that the two mountaineers were being made away with.

It is asserted by those who have inquired into the matter, that the clansmen were unnecessarily shot down by the zaptieh and regular troops, and that the only pretext put forward for killing them was that they were tipsy and had refused to surrender quietly.

The summary execution of these two men I consider one of the everyday matters of Scutari, and I only report it as their disappearance from the scene has at once encouraged the bullies protected by Abdi Pasha to renew their exactions and acts of violence against the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 56.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 10. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Scutari, January* 18, 1883.

IN my despatch No. 7 of the day before yesterday, I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship that Bedri Bey was doing his best, notwithstanding the little support he was receiving from the Scutari authorities, to lead the inhabitants of the Kraïa to accept quietly the final delimitation of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier in their direction, and which apportions the Kraïa to the Principality.

I now learn from a person, who is in a position to know, that Abdi Pasha, whilst

publicly pretending to assist Bedri Bey, is not only secretly urging the Kraïnotes to resistance, but also all other Albanians who may be affected by Bedri Bey's arrangement.

This is so serious a fact that I am not disposed to believe it possible that Abdi Pasha is acting on his own inspirations. His known private connections with some officers of the Sultan's suite lead me to infer that the Vali may be obeying orders transmitted through them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 57.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January 18, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Mr. Wyndham on the subject of the mission to Scutari of Ghazi Osman Pasha's First Aide-de-camp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Scutari, January 18, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Bey, First Aide-de-camp of Ghazi Osman Pasha, arrived here the day before yesterday on the ostensible duty of conveying from the Seraskeriat clothing and a small instalment of pay for the troops here.

Mustafa Bey is a native of Janina, who has in recent times been frequently employed in confidential missions to North and Middle Albania, and it is probable that on the present occasion he has brought instructions both to the Vali and the Military Commander concerning their conduct in the frontier questions which have been now revived here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 58.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 1.)*

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January 20, 1883.*

I HAVE already had the honour of reporting to your Lordship, by telegraph, that encounters have occurred on the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, near Podgoritza, between the Albanians and the Montenegrins.

I abstain from attempting to describe in detail these conflicts, as trustworthy particulars are not obtainable, when all sides are bent upon throwing the responsibility of them on their respective adversaries, and when a choice from half-a-dozen lines on a map has to be made to decide whether the fighting has occurred on Montenegrin or Turkish territory.

The facts, however, remain that fighting has taken place near the Church of Saint Nicholas, on the Podgoritza plain; that each side has had from five to six men killed or wounded; and that hostilities have ceased since Turkish regular troops have barred the way of the Albanians to Montenegrin territory.

My despatches Nos. 106 and 112 of the 8th and 23rd ultimo, will have somewhat prepared your Lordship for the difficulties which have suddenly arisen with regard to the delimitation of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, and I think I can now assure your Lordship on an equally good foundation, that nothing has yet occurred here to put an end to the progressive development of these difficulties.

The local authorities are secretly encouraging the Albanians to oppose the

arrangements come to by the Turkish Representative and Commissioners in Montenegro, and there are not sufficient regular troops in the vilayet to stem native opposition when it has been once fairly set going.

Lest an attempt should be again made to assemble the entire Montenegrin Boundary Commission, I once more venture to record the opinion that it would be most unwise to consent to its assemblage until the Turkish Government had unmistakably re-established its authority in Albania, and had cleared itself of all possible imputations of double-dealing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 59.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 1.)*

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January 23, 1883.*

BEDRI BEY informs me that the Montenegrin troops will march into the Kraïa to-morrow, and occupy that district up to the frontier-line leading from the shores of Lake Scutari near Goriča Topal up to the mountain-top near Megured.

At the same time, Bedri Bey will go with a force, considered sufficient by the Turkish military authorities (three companies of a battalion) to the Albanian side of the frontier-line, and there await the arrival of the Montenegrin Commissioners, with whom he is to carry out the definitive demarkation of that frontier.

The Turkish troops will take no notice whatever of what may arise between the Montenegrins and the natives of Kraïa, but it is to be hoped that they will carefully prevent any Albanians from crossing the frontier to assist the Kraïnotes in the resistance which they are expected to offer to the advance of the Montenegrins.

I do not think that the Kraïnotes will fight unless they have received promises of support from Scutari. About 100 Mussulmans of this town have left this clandestinely for the Kraïa within the last twenty-six hours. I hear, however, that many of them are already returning, not liking the appearance of affairs at the front.

Abdi Pasha, who has to-day received by telegraph his nomination to the military as well as civil command of the vilayet, has publicly stated that he accepts no responsibility for the outcome of the frontier settlements, as he was not consulted when they were being made. This declaration is understood to imply that frontier difficulties are likely to arise.

My opinion is that Abdi Pasha is the faithful exponent of the predominant policy at Constantinople, and that the pleasure of creating trouble for the Montenegrins and others is allowed to outweigh all ulterior considerations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 60.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 30, 1883.*

WITH reference to Mr. Kirby Green's telegram to your Lordship of the 23rd instant, reporting that Abdi Pasha had been made Military as well as Civil Governor of Scutari, I have the honour to inform you that Count Kálnoky understands that the Pasha had assumed that position without being authorized by his Government to do so.

His Excellency's information as to the state of things on the frontier near Podgoritza is not very full, but he is not inclined to look upon it in a serious light.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 61.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 1, 10 P.M.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February* 1, 1883, 7 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 7 of yesterday.

Minister for Foreign Affairs will send instructions to Constantinople in the same sense as your Lordship's, requesting renewal of Rustem Pasha's appointment as Governor-General of the Lebanon.

No. 62.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 2, 1·30 P.M.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 2, 1883, *noon.*

YOUR telegram No. 9.

Russian Government will not oppose renewal of Rustem Pasha's appointment, but M. de Giers cannot yet say how far they can go in recommending it.

No. 63.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 2, 1883, 3·5 P.M.

YOUR private letter of 25th January.

Instructions to act with your Austrian and other colleagues go out to-night.

No. 64.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 2, 1883, 7 P.M.

MY despatch No. 55 of 26th December.

Porte renews representations respecting obstacles thrown in way of work of Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission, and states that majority of Powers are disposed to remonstrate at Sophia.

Report by post state of case. Meanwhile, join with any colleague in strongly urging complete fulfilment of Article XII of Berlin Treaty.

No. 65.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 8. Ext.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 2, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 55 of the 26th December last on the subject of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a further note from the Porte which has been communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador at this Court,* renewing its representations with regard to the obstacles thrown in the way of the work of the Commission by the action of the Bulgarian Commissioners, and stating that the majority of the Powers are disposed to remonstrate with the Government of the Principality on the subject.

I have to instruct you to report the state of the case to me by post, and in the meanwhile, you are authorized to join with any of your colleagues who may be willing to make representations on the subject in strongly urging upon the Bulgarian Government the complete fulfilment of Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

---

* No. 45.

No. 66.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 3.)

E
(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Athens, January* 28, 1883.

WITH reference to my No. 3, announcing that the Turco-Greek frontier dispute had ceased, I should report that after the evacuation, counter-proposals for exchange of territory were made both by Turks and Greeks in the very disputed part of the frontier near Sidheropolouki, Gounitza, &c., but neither side agreeing to the proposals of the other, the European line has been adhered to, and the usual marks and pyramids are being laid down along the line in that portion where the European Commission failed to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 67.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 5.)

E
(No. 71.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 30, 1883.

THE Italian Ambassador, Count Corti, informed me yesterday that he had received instructions from his Government to advise the Ottoman Government to settle the whole of the frontier-line with the Montenegrin Government, and that he had recommended his Government not to send Commissioners to Montenegro until all, and not only portions of it, had been agreed upon between the Turks and the Montenegrins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 68.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 6, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 6, 1883, 8·28 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 8 of the 31st ultimo.

Austrian Ambassador received this morning instructions to support Rustem Pasha's appointment, unless his colleagues suggest a person more fitted for the post.

No. 69.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 7.)

E
(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January* 24, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 8 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a note from the Montenegrin Government, communicating to me the terms upon which it has accepted the Turkish proposal for the definitive demarkation of a portion of its southern frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 69.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Cettinjé, le* $\frac{5}{17}$ *Janvier*, 1883.

LA Sublime Porte s'étant décidée d'entrer en pourparlers avec le Gouvernement Princier au sujet de la question pendante des frontières, a envoyée dans ce but ses Délégués à Cettinjé.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin a saisi avec empressement l'occasion qui lui était offerte de mettre un terme à l'état précaire des choses sur ses frontières du côté de l'Albanie.

La Commission Turco-Monténégrine a tenu trois séances à Cettinjé. Les deux premières ont été consacrées aux débats des détails de la ligne-frontière dans la plaine de Podgoritza. Dans la troisième séance les divergences d'opinion ayant été applanies, et les Commissaires Turcs ayant acceptés de procéder au bornage de la ligne convenue, il a été dressé le Protocole ci-annexé signé par les Délégués des deux États.

Par la lecture du document en question vous voudrez bien remarquer, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, que ce n'est que les deux tronçons de la ligne: (1) entre la Mer Adriatique et le Lac de Scutari; et (2) celui entre le lac et Gradiste (au nord-est de Podgoritza), dont la délimitation a été définitivement adoptée par la Commission Turco-Monténégrine.

Quant au reste de la ligne (Gradiste-Mokra-Sekular-Moikovatz sur la Tara) les Commissaires Turcs ayant déclarés ne point avoir d'instructions suffisantes pour procéder à sa délimitation, le Gouvernement Monténégrin tout en réservant la plénitude de ses droits sur la ligne en question telle qu'elle a été définie par le Traité de Berlin, et les Actes qui l'ont modifié (Projet Granville, et Mémorandum de Constantinople du 12 Avril, 1880), et pour donner une fois de plus une preuve de son esprit de conciliation, a consenti à en remettre le bornage à une époque ultérieure.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) J. S. RADONICH.

No. 70.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 7.)*

(No. 15.)

My Lord, *Scutari, January 27, 1883.*

THE Montenegrins, in accordance with the arrangements reported in my despatch to your Lordship No. 13 of the 23rd instant, occupied their portion of the district of the Kraïa on the morning of the 24th, and Bedri Bey left this at the same time in a steamer, with an escort of three companies of a regular battalion, for the appointed place of meeting, only I am unable to ascertain whether he really went as far as Goriča-Topal.

I am assured that a body of 500 Kraïnotes had posted itself to hinder the advance of the Montenegrins over the mountains, but when the latter were seen to have effected a landing from the lake, and to have peaceably occupied, in considerable force, some of the low-lying villages, the Kraïnotes quickly decided not to oppose those who were advancing along the crests of the mountains. Thus, contrary to the expectations, and probably hopes, of many here, the reassertion of the rights of Montenegro over the Kraïa met with absolutely no opposition on the part of the natives.

Nevertheless, the Montenegrin Boundary Commissioners did not find their Turkish colleagues at the point previously agreed upon, and, after waiting there for two days, sent their Secretary, M. Bacič, to Scutari to inquire the cause of the delay.

Bedri Bey assured M. Bacič that on Wednesday morning he had proceeded to Goriča-Topal, but having observed no signs of the Montenegrin troops, had returned to Scutari. The Secretary did not deem it proper to question the truth of Bedri Bey's assertion, though the Montenegrin Commissioners had reached the rendezvous twelve hours before the time fixed upon. He therefore merely requested that Bedri Bey should at once join his colleagues on the Kraïa frontier. Hereupon, the Turkish Commissioner excused himself on the score of illness, and when pressed to depute the Sub-Commissioners to carry out the stipulated demarkation, declined to do so without instructions from Constantinople.

In this manner M. Bacič has been obliged to return to Montenegro, leaving the whole responsibility of his first failure in the execution of the engagements entered upon in the Turco-Montenegrin Protocol of the 10th instant on Bedri Bey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 71.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 7.)*

(No. 16.)

My Lord, *Scutari, January 27, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Chiefs of the Christian mountain clans of Hotti, Gruda, and Castrati were summoned to Scutari in the early part of this week, to be informed by the Turkish Boundary Commissioner of the exact frontier-line in the Podgoritza plain which has been agreed upon with Montenegro.

The Chiefs unhesitatingly told Bedri Bey and the Vali that, as the lands touched by this line belonged to their tribes and to nobody else, they did not intend to permit their transfer to other hands, and that they would return at once to their homes, to be ready for resistance from whatever side an attack might come. They, at the same time, refused to answer for the safety of Bedri Bey if he ventured in the neighbourhood of their districts.

The Chiefs, I am assured, say that, as long as Bedri Bey was present, Abdi Pasha supported his exhortations to them to accept quietly the frontier arrangements made under the Sultan's directions, but that, as soon as his Excellency was left alone with them, he told them that he warmly sympathized with their spirited determination to defend their lands.

Yesterday these Chiefs left Scutari with great ostentation, firing salvos in the air as a sign of their open defiance of the authorities, and otherwise marking their resolute independence.

That the clansmen would oppose a Montenegrin attempt to advance on the Podgoritza plain is as certain now as it was in April 1880, when it was tried to secure the execution of the Corti Convention; that the Montenegrins would not attempt such an advance unless the Turkish Government had carefully removed with its troops all danger of a collision is equally certain; and that the Ottoman military force could, if it was so desired, secure the unmolested advance of the Montenegrins is not to be doubted.

The declaration, therefore, said to have been made by the Ottoman Government, that it will not risk the life of a single subject to secure a transfer of territory to Montenegro, leaves affairs almost in the position in which Bedri Bey found them before he put his name to the Protocol of the 10th instant, with the notable exceptions, however, that the door has been opened for the somewhat irresponsible mountaineers to carry out some unprovoked raid on Montenegrin peasants and sheep-folds, or to play into the hands of those who may wish to create difficulties for the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 72.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 7.)*

(No. 18.)

My Lord, *Scutari, January 28, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Riza Bey, my Turkish colleague at Cettinjé, called on me this afternoon, and informed me that he had received peremptory orders from Constantinople to return to Cettinjé at once, notwithstanding the precarious state of his health.

He said that the Porte had awoke to the fact that the time for reopening Turco-Montenegrin frontier matters had, through the weakness of its authorities in Albania, been ill-chosen, and that, whilst wishing to find a means of momentarily dropping the whole business, it still feared that Russian intrigues might thereby be strengthened.

Yesterday the Grand Vizier summoned both the Vali and Bedri Bey to the telegraph office to give his Highness direct explanation upon the existing difficulties. The Turkish Boundary Commissioner had to exculpate himself from the charge of having fixed too short a time for the accomplishment of the engagements entered into in the Protocol of the 10th instant, and the Vali to explain how the Kraïnotes had been made to pay taxes to the Imperial Treasury whilst they belonged to Montenegro, but in the end the erection of the boundary marks in the Kraïa was suspended until further orders.

Riza Bey led me to understand that it was hoped, if not expected, that English

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

influence would extricate the Turkish Government from the position into which it has so gratuitously placed itself. I, on the other hand, let him perceive that assistance could not well be given when everything tended to prove that when advice was offered the exact opposite to it was done.

However, on the admission by the Minister that the local authorities are utterly inefficient; that the Christian clansmen have been roused by their clergy and others to a high state of enthusiasm in their determination to resist the Montenegrins, and even the Turkish troops; and that the frontier-line on the Podgoritza plain cannot be surrendered without some kind of a struggle, I pointed out that the only course open to the Porte was to rely on Prince Nicholas' knowledge of these facts, and to call upon His Highness to extend the term for the fulfilment of the stipulations of the Protocol until the Sultan's power had been restored in North Albania.

I did not fail to observe that Riza Bey, as is usual with Turkish officials, did not solicit my advice and assistance without, in reality, wishing to force on an acceptance and approval of the course of action which he thought the state of affairs demands. His Excellency evidently sought to make me express the conviction that there was nothing else left for the Porte to do but to coerce the Christian mountaineers; only, in order to avoid a possible outcry in Europe of undue severity against a Christian population, it was advisable that the Turkish Government should hold beforehand the approval of the Powers for its punitive action.

Feeling that the issues raised by a demand for the immediate execution of the Turco-Montenegrin Protocol are the commencement of serious hostilities between the Albanians and Montenegrins, or of violent repressive measures on the part of Turks against a brave Christian population, which the Porte longs to crush, I trust your Lordship will not disapprove of my having confined myself to pointing out the only way which appears to me open for evading these alternatives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 73.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received February 7.)

Sir, *Admiralty, February 7, 1883.*

MY Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty desire me to transmit herewith, for the perusal of Earl Granville, a copy of a letter from the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Superb," dated the 30th January, reporting on the general state of affairs in Northern Syria, and the particulars of his recent visit to Aleppo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Captain Ward to Admiral Lord Alcester.

My Lord, *"Superb," at Rhodes, January 13, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report that while the ship was at Ayas I paid a short visit to Aleppo, where I stayed a day with Mr. Patrick Henderson, Her Majesty's Consul in that city, and from conversation with him, I gathered that the general condition of the country is quiet, but not settled: the quiet is that of repose but not of contentment, and arises rather from the want of opportunity than from wish of the people to remain *in statu quo*. The Russians have massed a large force on the Armenian frontier, while within the Turkish dominions there is literally nothing to oppose them, and there appears to be a general impression that with the return of spring the Russians will find some pretext for crossing the frontier. There is unquestionably a very general feeling of insecurity in the country, which would no doubt reach a climax in the event of any forward movement on the part of Russia. In short, while anarchy prevails at Constantinople, it is hardly to be wondered at that, with Russia in a state of preparation on the frontier, there should be no feeling of settled tranquillity in Northern Syria. I hear from Mr. Henderson that Russian officers have, during the past year, been in the Euphrates Valley making maps of the country, and it is his opinion that the whole Valley of the Euphrates is completely at their mercy, and that the Turkish Convention can only last so long as it may please Russia to remain inactive.

At Aleppo, and throughout the province which bears that name, there existed during the Egyptian imbroglio a strong feeling of sympathy with Arabi, whose success the Arabs of Syria identified with their own emancipation from Turkish rule, which is thoroughly hateful to them, and Arabi was politic enough to cause it to be circulated throughout Syria that his aim was to form an Arab Empire independent of Turkey: this was their dream, and while they believed in the immediate possibility of realizing it, the feeling against Christians, who the Arabs instinctively felt were opposed to their views, was intensely strong, and there seems no doubt that, previous to the bombardment of Alexandria, the position of small Christian bodies, isolated as they are amongst a fanatical population, more especially in the large Mahommedan towns, was extremely critical, and even a temporary success of Arabi's forces might have resulted in a general massacre. The success of the bombardment, however, made a wonderful change for the better in this respect, and now as I have already said tranquillity prevails, though it must be admitted that it is only the enforced tranquillity of waiting for an opportunity.

The Governor of the Province of Aleppo is an active man, and he keeps order with a strong hand, and his relations with the English Representative are of the most friendly character, while, on the other hand, with the Representative of France, they are the reverse of cordial. I called on him in company with Mr. Henderson, and he talked very freely about his master, the Sultan, for whom he openly expressed the most supreme contempt; indeed, I gathered that the general feeling throughout his Government was one of extreme detestation of Turkish rule, and the one desire of the Arab population is to be delivered from it by any means whatever. I was even told that prayers have been offered up in the mosques at Aleppo for the Sultan's assassination. The Governor told us a story illustrative of the state of fear in which the Sultan lives.

A deputation of the chief inhabitants of Aleppo has recently gone to Constantinople to present a Memorial to the Sultan, expressing their satisfaction with the manner in which the Governor of Aleppo has administered his Government, and this Memorial was enclosed in a richly ornamented casket for presentation to His Majesty. The Sultan kept the deputation waiting for twenty-one days without granting them an audience, and at length they were directed to submit their Memorial to a Medical Board, which was to examine the casket and its contents, to ascertain if it contained dynamite, or anything that might injure His Majesty, it being even suggested that the ink with which the Memorial was inscribed might strike the reader blind, or emit some poisonous exhalation which would destroy life. He also said that the Sultan was a complete prisoner in his own Palace through fear of assassination, that he had dismissed his Circassian Guards, and no one was allowed to come near his person but his eunuchs, the chief of whom was now virtually the ruler of Turkey so far as any rule whatever existed at Constantinople. On our departure, by way of showing his cordiality towards the English, the Governor invited us to visit the Citadel to see the view of the city, a favour which had been recently refused to some French officers who had asked for it. The Citadel is finely situated near the centre of the town on a natural eminence, round which a deep moat has been dug. The building itself is in a ruinous condition, and entirely unarmed, the façade alone, which is a massive specimen of Byzantine architecture, being in tolerably good preservation; but it is chiefly worthy of a visit for the bird's-eye view which is obtained from its tower of the city and surrounding country.

Some progress has been made with the road between Alexandretta and Aleppo: the bridge over the Afreen, which was the chief engineering difficulty, has been completed, and considerable numbers of labourers are now employed on the end of the road near Alexandretta; but the want of money will probably prevent this very necessary public work being completed for some time longer, though the Governor himself says that he expects it to be opened by this time next year. This expectation is not shared by Her Majesty's Consul, and in the meantime, the caravan route between the capital and the principal seaport is in such a state, that after a long continuance of wet weather it is absolutely impassable for camels, and even horses and mules make the journey with difficulty.

Perhaps nothing can illustrate more forcibly the entire absence of progress inherent in Turkish rule than the fact, that no road for wheel traffic exists between Aleppo and the port of Alexandretta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. LE H. WARD.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 74.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, February* 8, 1883.

YOUR Excellency has been good enough to communicate to me a copy of a despatch from the Turkish Government, dated the 18th ultimo, in which Aarifi Pasha renews his representations in regard to the action of the Bulgarian authorities in the matter of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands' Commission.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have instructed Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia, pending the receipt of the Report which I am expecting from him on the question, to join with those of his colleagues who may have received similar instructions in strongly recommending the Bulgarian Government not to delay the complete fulfilment of Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 75.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Salonica, January* 29, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of the despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the subject of the improved state of affairs in Epirus and Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Salonica, January* 29, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to report that tranquillity prevails in Caterina and other districts bordering on the Greek frontier, and that since November last the Vilayet of Salonica, with the exception of some districts in the vicinity of the Bulgarian border, has been free from acts of brigandage and other serious crimes.

The state of public security has also improved in the Vilayets of Epirus, Monastir, and Cossova. The authorities in the latter vilayet have captured a large number of marauders, principally Albanians, and exiled most of them to Anatolia; and I am glad to add that their efforts to establish order in the districts bordering on Servia are now supported by the Servian frontier authorities. The inclosed translated extract from the "Cossova Gazette" furnishes some information on the subject.

On the other hand, I regret having to report that Bulgarian brigands continue their movements in the vicinity of the border, exposing the peasantry to depredations, and keeping them in a state of disquietude.

The Turkish authorities declare that this state of things is encouraged by certain parties in Kustendil and Dubnitza in Bulgaria, and attribute their inability to thoroughly cope with it to the inefficient manner in which the Bulgarian border police perform their duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Extract from the "Cossova Gazette" of December 28, 1882.

(Translation.)

ON the 5th April, 1297, last year, Ahmed Nedjib Effendi, a Muhadjir of the district of Oreub, went to his farm situated in that district, accompanied by Oreubly

Dervish, son of Ibisch, and a clerk and gendarme he had received from the local Natchalnik, for the purpose of dividing the lands he had there under his own cultivation and selling them. Having finished the business they were returning, when at a place near the town eight or ten Servians came in front of their Arabas and shot Nedjib Effendi and his companion, Dervish. On information then given by Nedjib Effendi's brother at Pristina, to the effect that money (more than 350 ducats) and other property had been stolen, a correspondence between the Vali and Ministry of Foreign Affairs arose, and the result of the effective representations made by the Ministry to the Servian Government through the medium of the Imperial Legation at Belgrade was, that two of the murderers of these two persons were sentenced to twelve years' penal servitude, two others to ten years' imprisonment, and one to one year's imprisonment. As only a watch and a revolver were found on each of the murdered men, Nedjib Effendi's watch was given to his relation, Newzad Bey, and the revolver to Ibrahim, who proved that it was his. Dervish's watch and revolver being actually in the keeping of the Toplidja authorities, their delivery to the Imperial Legation has been demanded.

From an answer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is understood that on their arrival they will be sent to Pristina to be handed over to his heirs.

If the Servian Government carefully takes into consideration the great importance of punishing a number of Servian ruffians who never fail to perpetrate every kind of villainy on Moslems who, from time to time, go to Servia to sell their lands and property on the other side of the border, and hastens to comply with the necessities of justice, as is done on our side, in such cases it acts in accordance with the requirements of humanity and justice. For it is unnecessary for us to define and explain the extent of the useful and beneficial results that will necessarily be produced on both sides by the execution of measures for the fitting punishment of such scoundrels, or of the harm that would be caused were the reverse policy adopted. Consequently, we hope that the Servians will, please God, continue to put a stop to connivance at such actions, and respect the rights of neighbours.

No. 76.

Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, February 12.)

E *Constantinople, le* 11 *Février*, 1883.
(Télégraphique.)

LE Monténégro vient de s'adresser aux Grandes Puissances pour se plaindre du retard survenu dans l'arrangement qui a été conclu dernièrement entre les Commissaires Ottomans et Monténégrins.

Ce retard n'est nullement dû, ainsi que Son Altesse le Prince Nicolas semble le croire, à un manque de bon vouloir de la part de la Sublime Porte. Nous avons montré notre résolution de mener l'affaire des frontières à bonne fin, en prenant l'initiative d'envoyer Bedri Bey sur les lieux. L'arrangement qui s'en est suivi était en bonne voie d'exécution, lorsque les Malissors ont résolu de demander la conservation d'une petite bande de terrain. Les autorités locales n'ont rien négligé pour écarter cette objection; mais leurs efforts sont restés infructueux.

En présence de cette situation, la Sublime Porte s'est demandée si c'était la peine d'insister, au risque de s'exposer à des incidents regrettables, sur une partie aussi insignifiante du tracé convenu. Elle a pensé qu'il vaudrait mieux, dans un but de conciliation, faire subir une légère déviation à ce tracé. Il s'agirait de l'établir de façon à ce que la ligne partant de l'extrémité de la Forêt de Marc, se dirigeât sur Goschik, Stanislovatz, et St. Nicolas, pour de là aller rejoindre Grorisda et la Rivière de Sim, d'où elle aboutira directement à la hauteur de Voinu.

Cette concession, qui, je le répète, n'implique que l'abandon d'une étendue de territoire de 8 kilomètres carrés, a été demandée dans le but unique d'assurer une solution pacique. La Sublime Porte n'a jamais entendu renoncer aux engagements découlant de l'arrangement en question, et tient encore à voir aplanir l'incident qui est venu en retarder l'exécution.

Je vous prie de faire valoir ces considérations auprès du Cabinet de Londres en vue de l'amener, après l'avoir édifié sur la loyauté des intentions de la Sublime Porte, à agir auprès du Gouvernement Monténégrin afin de le décider à accepter notre proposition dictée par un sentiment de conciliation manifeste.

No. 77.

E *Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received February 13.)*

(No. 6.)

Sophia, January 27, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 55 of the 26th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch from the Porte, complaining of the manner in which the progress of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission, appointed under the 2nd paragraph of Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin, is impeded by the action of the Bulgarian Commissioners, and instructing me to furnish your Lordship with a Report of that Commission since Nihad Pasha resumed his duties upon it in the month of March last.

In obedience to these instructions I have the honour to inclose a copy of a Memorandum which Nihad Pasha has had the kindness to communicate to me, showing the proceedings of the Commission since its first meeting in the month of April 1880. The Commission decided to deal first with the question of State property, but was unable to come to any decision on the subject in consequence of the divergence of views which existed between the Ottoman and Bulgarian Commissioners, the former contending that the provisions of Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin applied to all the property held by the Sublime Porte in Bulgaria, except such as made part of the public domain, such as bridges, roads, rivers, ports, &c., the latter maintaining that the provisions of the Article merely referred to such property as was held by the Sublime Porte as a private person, and that all property which was affected to the service of the Administration should be held to have passed to the Bulgarian State. The view taken of this question by the Turkish Government is fully exposed in the inclosed Memorandum.

When it became evident that no agreement could be come to between the Ottoman and Bulgarian Commissioners, Nihad Pasha suggested that, as such a case had not been foreseen by the Treaty of Berlin, the matter should be referred to the Signatory Powers, as it was a question which regarded the interpretation as well as the execution of a Treaty to which they were parties. He was subsequently instructed to bring before the Commission the question of Vakoufs, reserving formally all the rights of the Sublime Porte as regarded the property of the State.

On the question of the Vakoufs being brought forward, the Bulgarian Commissioners demanded that a complete list of all the property comprised in the Vakoufs should be submitted to them, on the ground that it would be impossible to decide the "mode of the alienation, working, or use" of such property unless it were accurately defined. Nihad Pasha resisted this demand of his Bulgarian colleagues, on the ground that it was unnecessary, and tended to enlarge the attributions of the Commission as fixed by the Treaty. He argued that all that the Commission had to do was to decide upon the mode of alienation, working, or use of the property comprised in the Vakoufs. At the same time, he offered to place at the disposal of the Bulgarian Commissioners the lists which were in his possession.

I understand from M. Stoïcheff, the Bulgarian Commissioner, that he has now been instructed not to press for the list which had been demanded, but to allow the consideration of the different categories of Vakouf property to be brought before the Commission.

M. Stoïloff, who has recently been appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, has informed me that he is about to submit a proposal to the Council of Ministers to obtain for the Bulgarian Government a greater control over the administration of Vakouf property. His proposal would leave the Administration in the hands of the Turkish Administrators, to whom should be joined the Prefects of the different districts. He argues that the Government, being responsible towards the Turkish Government for the administration of the property, have a right to a more direct control than they at present possess.

The question of Vakoufs is a very complicated one, as it comprises not only property destined for the benefit of religious institutions in the country, at Constantinople and at Mecca, but also it has frequently been the habit for private persons to turn their property into Vakouf, in which case a certain proportion of the revenues is retained by the religious institution which administers it, while the remainder is paid to the proprietor or his heirs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Aide-mémoire.

PAR rapport aux propriétés de l'État et des Fondations Pieuses ("Vacoufs") sises dans les provinces détachées de l'Empire Ottoman pour constituer la Principauté vassale de Bulgarie, le Traité de Berlin stipule par l'Article XII ce qui suit:—

"Une Commission Turco-Bulgare sera chargée *de régler*, dans le courant de deux années, *toutes les affaires relatives* au mode d'aliénation, d'exploitation, ou d'usage, pour le compte de la Sublime Porte, des propriétés de l'État et des Fondations Pieuses ("Vacoufs"), et les questions relatives aux intérêts des particuliers qui pourraient s'y trouver engagés."

En conformité à ces dispositions du Traité de Berlin une Commission Turco-Bulgare s'était réunie à Sophia dès les premiers jours de l'année 1880, et avait ouvert ses séances au mois d'Avril.

Des deux objets des travaux qui incombaient à la Commission Turco-Bulgare, à savoir: les propriétés de l'État et les Fondations Pieuses, elle a abordé d'abord celui des propriétés de l'État.

La liste ci-annexée des diverses catégories de propriété de l'État examinée et approuvée par le Conseil des Ministres du Gouvernement Impérial que les Commissaires Ottomans avaient produite sur la demande de leurs collègues Bulgares et qui se trouve incluse au Protocole No. 6, indique l'ensemble des propriétés de l'État qui, aux termes de l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin, devaient être aliénées, exploitées, ou mises en usage pour le compte de la Sublime Porte.

Bien que les attributions de la Commission Turco-Bulgare eussent été limitées à régler seulement toutes les affaires relatives au mode d'aliénation, d'exploitation, ou d'usage et que les droits de la Sublime Porte sur les propriétés de l'État en Bulgarie eussent été reconnus par les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, comme un fait préexistant et non contesté, les Commissaires Bulgares voulaient s'arroger la faculté de les discuter et les rendre justiciables devant la Commission.

Il en était résulté que des discussions stériles sur la prétension des Commissaires Bulgares à établir des distinctions arbitraires entre les propriétés de l'État, ont absorbé plus de vingt mois de temps sans aboutir à une solution qui n'était pas de la compétence de la Commission.

Les Commissaires Ottomans ont référé par Rapport détaillé au Gouvernement Impérial que les Commissaires Bulgares soutiennent de parti pris leurs prétensions inadmissibles et contestent contre l'évidence des arguments des Délégués Ottomans, toutes les propriétés de l'État à la Sublime Porte, à l'exception de celles que le Gouvernement Impérial possédait comme tout autre particulier et qu'il avait acheté de son argent.

A la suite de ce Rapport les Commissaires Ottomans ont reçu l'ordre de conformer leur conduite dans la Commission aux instructions contenues d'une part, dans le télégramme du 25 Avril, 1881, ci-annexé en copie, et d'autre part, dans le Mémorandum élaboré par la section législative du Conseil d'État, en date du 6 Avril, 1297 (1881), ci-inclus en traduction.

Ces deux documents indiquent sous quel point de vue le Gouvernement Impérial envisage les stipulations de l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin par rapport aux propriétés de l'État.

Le télégramme susmentionné n'admet pas les distinctions entre les propriétés de l'État faites par les Commissaires Bulgares et relève "qu'aux termes de l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin, le Gouvernement Impérial est en droit de revendiquer tous les biens qui, ne faisant pas partie du domaine public à l'instar des ponts-et-chaussées, fleuves, ports, &c., lui appartiennent en propre, et dont il peut disposer à son gré. De ce que quelques-unes de ces propriétés étaient affectées à l'usage d'une branche quelconque de l'Administration, il ne s'ensuit pas qu'elles aient cessé de faire partie du domaine privé de l'État pour passer au domaine public, puisque le Gouvernement Impérial était à tout instant libre, non seulement d'en changer l'affectation, mais de les vendre ou les louer à son profit." En conséquence, les Commissaires Ottomans ont reçu l'ordre d'insister à ce que les droits de la Sublime Porte soient reconnus suivant la liste en leur possession.

Le Mémorandum susmentionné du Conseil d'État relève la prétention des Commissaires Bulgares de donner aux "propriétés de l'État" mentionnées dans le Traité de Berlin, l'interprétation d'être celles qui donnaient un revenu et que le Gouvernement Impérial possédait comme tout autre particulier, les ayant achetées de son propre

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

argent; et quant aux biens destinés au service public, le Gouvernement Impérial ne pouvait en avoir le droit de propriété, et ils devaient passer à la Bulgarie avec le droit de souveraineté.

Le Mémorandum expose que la question fondamentale de la discussion est de savoir si les règles du droit international et les dispositions légales observées par les autres Gouvernements par rapport aux propriétés de l'État sont ou ne sont pas favorables à la thèse que les Commissaires Bulgares soutiennent.

La conclusion des délibérations faites à ce sujet avec le concours des conseillers légaux de la Sublime Porte dans la section législative du Conseil d'État est la suivante.

La vraie interprétation du paragraphe inséré dans le Traité de Berlin est que les propriétés qui doivent être indemnisées sont en général tous les biens qui se trouvaient en possession du Gouvernement Impérial et dont il avait la libre disposition. Car il est inadmissible de considérer le Gouvernement Impérial comme un rentier et de supposer en conséquence que les propriétés qui doivent être indemnisées sont seulement les biens qui donnent des revenus. D'autre part, vu que chaque Gouvernement a le droit de faire déclasser les forteresses et fortifications et faire sortir les édifices tels que les casernes et les hôtels de Préfecture, &c., de leur affectation à l'administration militaire ou civile et en disposer à son gré, les Commissaires Bulgares ne peuvent pas prétendre, en donnant à ces propriétés la signification des propriétés du domaine public, à chercher à annihiler les droits de la Sublime Porte reconnus par un acte international. Le domaine public comprend, d'après le droit international, les objets tels que routes, ponts, ports, rades, lais, fleuves, &c., qui sont inaliénables et au profit de tout le monde. Les propriétés autres que celles du domaine public qui se trouvent en Bulgarie doivent ainsi toutes appartenir au Gouvernement Impérial. En outre, vu que la Principauté Bulgare a été instituée en vertu d'un Traité et non pas par la conquête, le Congrès a décidé que tous les biens immeubles que le Gouvernement Impérial y possède feront partie sans condition et sans restriction de l'indemnisation.

En conséquence son Excellence Nihad Pacha doit recevoir l'ordre de rejeter les prétentions des Commissaires Bulgares et maintenir les droits de la Sublime Porte sur toutes les propriétés de l'État consignées dans la liste qu'il possède et qui avait été examinée ainsi par la section législative. Dans le cas où les Commissaires Bulgares persisteraient dans leurs prétentions, le Commissaire Impérial fera passer nos preuves et arguments au Protocole pour assurer dès à présent le droit du Gouvernement Impérial.

Nihad Pacha avait eu soin de les faire passer au Protocole No. 46, néanmoins les Commissaires Bulgares continuaient, de parti pris, à maintenir leurs prétentions, et il était devenu évident que les débats ultérieurs dans la Commission Turco-Bulgare ne pourraient aboutir à un résultat pratique; entre l'affirmation d'une part et la négation d'autre part, l'entente entre les Délégués n'était guère possible. Ce cas n'a pas été prévu par le Traité de Berlin; ainsi pour résoudre les contestations relatives à une stipulation du Traité de Berlin, l'intercession des Puissances Signataires de ce Traité de Berlin est devenu rigoureusement nécessaire. Ces Puissances ne peuvent pas se dégager de l'obligation d'une action collective tant en vue de l'interprétation que de l'exécution du Traité portant leur signature, autrement elles reconnaîtraient aux parties intéressées la faculté de poursuivre en dehors d'elles leurs prétentions par les moyens qu'ils jugeraient opportuns.

Nihad Pacha en portant à la connaissance de son Altesse le Premier Ministre cet état de choses par rapport à la question des propriétés de l'État, avait interrompu les séances de la Commission Turco-Bulgare jusqu'à ce qu'il aurait reçu des ordres ultérieurs de la Sublime Porte.

À la suite de cette démarche son Altesse le Premier Ministre avait d'une part prescrit à Nihad Pacha de reprendre les séances et d'aborder la question des propriétés des Fondations Pieuses sous la réserve formelle de tous les droits de la Sublime Porte sur les propriétés de l'État, et avait engagé d'autre part le Ministre Impérial des Affaires Étrangères d'en saisir les Cabinets des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, en vue de presser la solution de cette question, laissée en suspens conformément aux stipulations du Traité susmentionné.

Quant à la question des propriétés des Fondations Pieuses (Vacoufs), le deuxième objet des stipulations de l'Article XII, les travaux y relatifs dans le sein de la Commission Turco-Bulgare sont paralysés par les prétentions inadmissibles des Commissaires Bulgares. La demande des Commissaires Bulgares pour qu'une liste de toutes

les propriétés Vacoufs leur soit présentée a donné lieu à des discussions qui ont absorbé neuf séances. C'est que sous la question de forme se cache la tendance de leur part d'élargir les attributions qui leur sont dévolues par l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin, et de rendre ainsi les droits de la Sublime Porte sur les Vacoufs, reconnus par un acte international, justifiables par devant la Commission. Les Commissaires Ottomans ont combattu cette prétention inadmissible, et ont en même temps déclaré qu'ils tiennent à la disposition de leurs collègues toutes les listes et inventaires de Vacoufs qu'ils possèdent. Ils ont aussi démontré par des arguments concluants consignés dans les Protocoles et résumés dans un Rapport adressé par Nihad Pacha à la Sublime Porte en date du 10 Décembre, 1882, que la demande d'une liste de toutes les propriétés Vacoufs, expressément confectionnée pour être présentée aux Commissaires Bulgares n'a pas raison d'être et serait sans aucune utilité pour l'accomplissement des travaux qui incombent à la Commission selon la teneur de l'Article XII. En effet, la Commission Turco-Bulgare est chargée seulement *de régler toutes les affaires relatives* au mode d'aliénation, d'exploitation, et d'usage. Or, pour remplir l'action ainsi limitée de la Commission la demande des Délégués Bulgares de la liste générale des Vacoufs n'est guère justifiée ni en principe ni par les motifs qu'ils ont allégués à ce sujet. Les Commissaires Ottomans ont déclaré de plus qu'ils prieront Son Altesse le Prince de désigner un, deux, ou trois membres parmi les Ministres pour qu'ils examinent ce qui a été dit d'une part et d'autre à propos de la demande des listes en question, et s'ils affirment que cette demande est motivée et nécessaire pour l'accomplissement des travaux qui incombent à la Commission Turco-Bulgare, ils l'adresseront au Gouvernement Impérial.

Dès que cette question incidente sera résolue dans un sens ou dans un autre, la marche ultérieure des travaux de la Commission par rapport aux Vacoufs ne rencontrera pas, espère Nihad Pacha, des difficultés sérieuses.

Sophia, le 10 *Janvier,* 1883.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

List of State Property in the Principality of Bulgaria claimed by the Porte.

HOTELS de Préfecture.
Bureaux de Télégraphe et Postes, avec attenances.
Édifices des Douanes.
Écoles—Rachdié.
Casernes Militaires, avec écuries, dépendances, et terrains affectés à leur usage.
Casernes de Zaptiés, &c.
Corps de Garde Militaire et de Gendarmerie.
Hôpitaux Militaires.
Prisons d'hommes et de femmes.
Poudrières, avec dépendances.
Fabriques de Salpêtre (salptérières).
Dépôts de Rédifs.
Édifices pour l'Administration Militaire (comme à Choumla).
Tours Militaires.
Emplacement des fortifications et les terrains adjacents, vignes, jardins, terres labourées, &c., achetés par le Gouvernement, et destinés à l'usage militaire.
Quarantaines, avec dépendances.
Constructions et établissements pour l'usage particulier de la marine militaire et leurs dépendances.
Hangars en pierre, en bois et en clayonnage.
Constructions, dépôts, hangars, pour l'usage de l'armée, établis aux stations de chemins de fer et ailleurs.

Les propriétés qui ayant pu être possédées par des particuliers, se trouvent dans la possession de l'État, et dont les revenus appartiennent au Trésor, ainsi que: bains, magasins, boutiques, moulins, kiosques (comme le kiosque d'Arif Pacha à Roustchouk), fabriques, ateliers (comme tanneries et menuiseries), fermes, jardins, établis au frais de l'État (comme celui d'Agha Hussein Baghtchessi à Widdin).

Les terrains achetés par le Gouvernement pour l'installation des Tcherkess ou qui étant déjà des propriétés de l'État ont été cédés à ceux-ci, et qui maintenant restent vacants à la suite de leur émigration.

Forêts du Gouvernement.

Pâturages dits "Sevad."
Hivernages ("kichlaks").
Prairies.
Chemin de fer de Tatar-Bazardjik à Sophia (conformément à la mention qui en est faite au Protocole No. 3), ainsi que les autres lignes ferrées construite en régie par le Gouvernement Impérial ainsi que le matériel.
Toute propriété qui par vacation ("mahlal") est devenu propriété de l'État jusqu'à la constitution de la Principauté.

Inclosure 3 in No. 77.

Aarifi Pasha to Nihad Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 25 Avril*, 1881.

REÇU Rapport en Turc des 24 Février et 24 Mars.
Nous ne pouvons pas admettre les distinctions faites par vos collègues Bulgares.
Aux termes de l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin, le Gouvernement Impérial est en droit de revendiquer tous les biens qui, ne faisant pas partie du domaine public à l'instar des ponts-et-chaussées, fleuves, ports, &c., lui appartiennent en propre, et dont il peut disposer à son gré. De ce que quelques-unes de ces propriétés étaient affectées à l'usage d'une branche quelconque de l'Administration, il ne s'ensuit pas qu'elles aient cessé de faire partie du domaine privé de l'État pour passer au domaine public, puisque le Gouvernement était à tout instant libre, non seulement d'en changer l'affectation, mais de les vendre ou les louer à son profit.
Vous aurez donc à insister à ce que les droits de la Sublime Porte soient reconnus sur toutes ses propriétés suivant la liste en votre possession.
Détails par courrier.

No. 78.

E *Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received February 13.)*

(No. 46.) *Vienna, February 9*, 1883.

My Lord,
THE Austro-Hungarian Government have received a communication from the Porte on the subject of the Bulgarian tribute, and Count Káhnoky tells me that he has been asked by the German Government what answer he proposes to return to it.
He replied that as the right of the Porte to ask that this matter should be settled was not to be disputed, he proposed to answer that he should be ready to direct the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople to join the Representatives of the other Powers for the consideration of the question whenever they should be empowered by their respective Governments to enter into it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 79.

*Earl Granville to Viscount Lyons.**

(No. 160.) *Foreign Office, February 13*, 1883.

My Lord,
THE Turkish Government has again called the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the question of the tribute to be paid by Bulgaria, and of the share of the Ottoman debt which should be borne by the Principality.
I inclose copy of a note on the subject which has been communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador, which also refers to the question of the proportion of the Ottoman debt to be borne by Servia, Montenegro, and Greece.†
I need not remind your Excellency that the liability of Bulgaria is distinctly recognized by the Treaty of Berlin, and that according to the stipulations of Article IX the amount of the annual tribute to be paid to the Suzerain Court was to be fixed by

* Also to Sir A. Paget (No. 36), Sir E. Thornton (No. 38), Sir H. Elliot (No. 43), and Lord Ampthill (No. 72).
† No. 32.

an agreement between the Signatory Powers at the close of the first year of the working of the new organization in the Principality; it was to be calculated on the mean revenue of her territory, and the Powers were at the same time to take into consideration what portion of the Public Debt of the Empire could be assigned to her on the basis of a fair proportion.
As regards Servia and Montenegro, the Representatives at Constantinople were, under Articles XLII and XXXIII, to fix the amount of their share of the debt in concert with the Porte on an equitable basis.
Her Majesty's Government have hitherto maintained that the necessary calculations could not be accurately made until the boundaries of the countries concerned, as laid down by the Treaty, had been determined by the various Frontier Commissions, and agreed to by all the Powers. It was not until the 11th August, 1881, that Turkey gave her adhesion to the Final Acts of the Commissioners in regard to Bulgaria and Servia; but in the same month the Turkish Ambassador at this Court communicated to me a despatch from the Porte begging that steps might be taken to carry out the provisions of the IXth Article of the Treaty, and I accordingly authorized Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the 31st of that month, to join with the Representatives of the other Signatory Powers in the consideration of the subject.
The view held at that time by the Russian Government was that the case of Servia and Roumania before the Turco-Russian war would furnish a precedent for the assessment of the tribute, and that the assignment of Bulgaria's share of the debt could not take place until the total debt of Turkey was declared.
I informed the Russian Ambassador, on the 19th October, 1881, that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the first step to be taken was that the Porte should invite the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople to proceed with the discussion and settlement of the two questions; but no progress towards their solution has hitherto been made, and Her Majesty's Government cannot conceal from themselves that, unless the Powers are prepared to give their support to the Turkish Government, the matter is likely to be indefinitely delayed.
It appears to Her Majesty's Government to be of great importance that all outstanding questions under the Treaty of Berlin should be promptly and finally disposed of, and that the Power immediately interested in their settlement should not be allowed to appeal in vain to the Signatory Powers for their co-operation in procuring such settlement. It is manifestly undesirable that the Powers should appear to insist only on the fulfilment of those conditions of the Treaty which imposed sacrifices upon Turkey, whilst remaining indifferent to the execution of the Articles which were intended to secure to her some compensation.
Her Majesty's Government believe that, as soon as a disposition is shown by the Powers to proceed with the questions of the tribute and of the share of the debt, they can be settled at Constantinople without much difficulty if the Porte and the countries concerned will furnish certain data from which an estimate may be made of the amounts to be claimed.
The demarcation of the frontier of Montenegro is still incomplete, but the amount of territory in dispute is not so large as materially to affect the question of her share of debt.
The case of Greece may require to be treated separately, as not coming under the Treaty of Berlin, but she also is bound, under the Xth Article of the Convention of May 1881, to bear a part of the debt proportionate to the revenues of the territories ceded to her.
I have to request you to communicate with the Government to which you are accredited on the subject of this despatch, and to invite them to join Her Majesty's Government in taking steps for the settlement of these questions without further delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 80.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 14.)*

(No. 19.) *Scutari, February 5*, 1883.

My Lord,
WITH reference to the difficulties encountered in carrying out the terms of the Protocol of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, at the

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE, LONDON

request of Bedri Bey, Prince Nicholas extended by fifteen days the term within which the boundary marks were to be definitively placed on the frontier-line between the sea and the western shores of Lake Scutari.

This prolongation is on the point of expiring without anything having been accomplished. Prince Nicholas, I believe, is prepared to again accord another fifteen days; only, it appears, a wish has arisen at Constantinople to annul altogether the Cettinjé Protocol, and renew negotiations with the Montenegrin Government for a demarcation of a *statu quo* frontier.

If the Turkish Government can persuade Prince Nicholas that it has no afterthought in making this proposal but to facilitate a settlement, now somewhat hindered by the attitude of the North Albanian clansmen, I see no reason why His Highness should not continue the conciliatory conduct he has observed throughout these affairs.

I fear, however, that the rivalries and other conflicting elements existing on the Turkish side are too active to permit of advantage being drawn from the favourable dispositions above described.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 81.

Viscount Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received February 16.)

(No 140.)
My Lord, *Paris, February* 15, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a *note verbale*, in the terms of your Lordship's despatch No. 169 of the day before yesterday, which I have addressed to the French Government on the subject of the Bulgarian tribute and of the share of the Ottoman Debt to be borne by Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro, and Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Note Verbale.

THE Turkish Government has again called the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the questions of the tribute to be paid by Bulgaria, and of the share of the Ottoman Debt which should be borne by that Principality.

The Ottoman Ambassador in London has communicated to Earl Granville a note on the subject, which refers also to the question of the proportion of the Ottoman Debt to be borne by Servia, Montenegro, and Greece.

The liability of Bulgaria is distinctly recognized by the Treaty of Berlin; and according to the stipulations of Article IX, the amount of the annual tribute to be paid to the Suzerain Court was to be fixed by an Agreement between the Signatory Powers at the close of the first year of the working of the new organization in the Principality; it was to be calculated on the mean revenue of her territory, and the Powers were at the same time to take into consideration what portion of the Public Debt of the Empire could be assigned to her on the basis of a fair proportion. As regards Servia and Montenegro the Representatives at Constantinople were under Articles XLII and XLIII to fix the amount of their share in the debt in concert with the Porte on an equitable basis.

Her Majesty's Government have hitherto maintained that the necessary calculations could not be accurately made until the boundaries of the countries concerned, as laid down by the Treaty, had been determined by the various Frontier Commissions, and agreed to by all the Powers.

It was not until the 11th August, 1881, that Turkey gave her adhesion to the final acts of the Commissioners in regard to Bulgaria and Servia, but in the same month the Turkish Ambassador at Her Majesty's Court communicated to Lord Granville a despatch from the Porte begging that steps might be taken to carry out the provisions of the IXth Article of the Treaty, and Lord Granville accordingly authorized Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the 31st of that month,

to join with the Representatives of the other Signatory Powers in the consideration of the subject.

The view held at that time by the Russian Government was that the case of Servia and Roumania before the Turco-Russian war would furnish a precedent for the assessment of the tribute, and that the assignment of Bulgaria's share of the debt could not take place until the total debt of Turkey was declared.

Lord Granville informed the Russian Ambassador on the 19th October, 1881, that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the first step to be taken was that the Porte should invite the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople to proceed with the discussion and settlement of the two questions, but no progress towards their solution has hitherto been made, and Her Majesty's Government cannot conceal from themselves that, unless the Powers are prepared to give their support to the Turkish Government, the matter is likely to be indefinitely delayed.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government to be of great importance that all outstanding questions under the Treaty of Berlin should be promptly and finally disposed of, and that the Power immediately interested in their settlement should not be allowed to appeal in vain to the other Signatory Powers for their co-operation in procuring such settlement. It is manifestly undesirable that the Powers should appear to insist only on the fulfilment of those conditions of the Treaty which imposed sacrifices upon Turkey, whilst remaining indifferent to the execution of the Articles which were intended to secure to her some compensation. Her Majesty's Government believe that, as soon as a disposition is shown by the Powers to proceed with the questions of the tribute and of the share of the debt, they can be settled at Constantinople without much difficulty, if the Porte and the countries concerned will furnish certain data from which an estimate may be made of the amounts to be claimed.

The demarcation of the frontier of Montenegro is still incomplete, but the amount of territory in dispute is not so large as to materially affect the question of her share of debt.

The case of Greece may require to be treated separately as not coming under the Treaty of Berlin; but Greece also is bound under the Xth Article of the Convention of May, 1881, to bear a part of the debt proportionate to the revenues of the territories ceded to her.

Lord Lyons is instructed to communicate with the French Government on these subjects, and to ask them to join Her Majesty's Government in taking steps for the settlement of the several questions without further delay.

Paris, February 15, 1883.

No. 82.

E *Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received February* 19.)

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February* 16, 1883.

IN obedience to your Lordship's instruction No. 72 of the 13th instant, on the subject of the Bulgarian Tribute, and of the proportion of the Ottoman Debt to the share to be borne by Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro, and Greece, I called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and having communicated the views of Her Majesty's Government, therein explained, to his Excellency, I asked whether the German Government would join with that of Her Majesty in taking steps for the settlement of these questions as proposed by your Lordship.

Count Hatzfeldt replied that while agreeing generally in principle with the views of Her Majesty's Government, he must reserve his official reply until after he had been able to communicate with Prince Bismarck on the subject of your Lordship's despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 83.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

E
(No. 96.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 10, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I yesterday, in obedience to your orders, consulted with the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador as to whether any further representation should be made to the Porte with reference to the delimitation of the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier.

His Excellency replied that as the Porte in their note of last month, copy of which I inclosed to your Lordship in my despatch No. 35 of the 16th ultimo, had stated that it had communicated with the Government of the Prince of Bulgaria as well as with that of Roumania, he did not think, especially as matters appeared to be going smoothly, that any further communication on this subject to the Porte was necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 84.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

E
(No. 102. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 12, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, at an interview which I had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the afternoon of the 6th instant, after the departure on that day of the Queen's messenger, his Highness informed me that at an Extraordinary Council of Ministers which had been held on the previous day the Turco-Montenegrin frontier question had been discussed, and that a difficulty having arisen in the negotiations with the Principality, the Council had decided to request the good offices of the Great Powers, with a view to settling it. His Highness at the same time placed into my hands a Memorandum, of which the inclosed is a copy.

I asked him if he could not give me some further explanations than those contained in the paper he had given to me, but he was then unable to do so. To-day I again paid my respects to the Grand Vizier and to Aarifi Pasha, and I spoke to them on the subject of their recent communication respecting Montenegro. I first asked Said Pasha where the 8 kilom. of land were situated, and whether it was territory which Bedri Bey had agreed to cede to Montenegro in the Protocol accepted by himself and the Montenegrin Commission on the 29th December/10th January last, a copy of which was transmitted to your Lordship by Mr. Kirby Green in his despatch No. 8 of the 19th ultimo.

Said Pasha replied that the territory in question was on the Podgoritza Plain, between the Forest of Marti and St. Nicholas; that it was arid ground, having no strategical importance, but that the population there had stated that they would not allow it to be ceded to Montenegro, and would oppose any such attempt by force.

I observed to Said Pasha that I possessed very good information as to what had taken place at Scutari lately, and that Her Majesty's Government was likewise fully informed on the subject; that I had constantly represented to the Porte the inability of Abdi Pasha to maintain order in his vilayet, and to secure safety for life and property at Scutari; that quite recently two Christian mountaineers had been murdered in the town, and that I had yesterday received a telegram from Mr. Green, informing me that 300 Christian mountaineers had marched upon it in order to avenge the deaths of their clansmen, and had had a fight with the Imperial troops; that notwithstanding the incapacity of Abdi Pasha to maintain order, instead of his being removed, as had been intended by the Porte, he had been appointed Military as well as Civil Governor, and that, in the presence of this state of affairs, I could not say what view Her Majesty's Government might take of the request of the Porte for their good offices, as there appeared to be no guarantee, so long as the Turkish authorities had no control over the Albanian population, for effect being given to any proposal which might be recommended for the settlement of the frontier. Moreover, I said, Bedri Bey even appeared not to be supported by Abdi Pasha; on the contrary, I observed, the latter had, I believe, sympathized with those persons who had opposed the arrangement concluded on the 29th December/10th January last with Montenegro.

Said Pasha replied that he fully appreciated the force of my observations, and that, without mentioning my name, he would submit them to the Council of Ministers. He also observed that he personally was for the maintenance of the Protocol signed by the Turkish and Montenegrin Commissioners last December.

His Highness' wish to remove the present Vali of Scutari is, I believe, sincere; but, as I reported in my despatch No. 12 of the 8th ultimo, his recommendation for his dismissal was overruled at the Palace, doubtless through the influence of the Albanian officers about the Sultan, as is suggested by Mr. Kirby Green in his despatch to your Lordship No. 10, Confidential, of the 18th ultimo, copy of which, as well as of other despatches on this question, he has been good enough to send me.

I asked Said Pasha whether the Porte could not also negotiate directly with Montenegro for the settlement of the rest of the line from Graditza to Mokra and Semlar, but His Highness said he thought not, and that it would be preferable that the line should be settled by the Boundary Commissioners of the Great Powers. I replied that a line must in the first place be agreed upon between the parties directly interested, and that I did not think it probable that the Powers would send their Commissioners to the ground to mark out a frontier line so long as the country continued in such a state of insecurity as it appeared to be at present.

I held much the same language to Aarifi Pasha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who informed me that on Saturday last the Porte had sent a Circular to its Representatives with the Great Powers, instructing them to ask for their good offices, with a view of the present difficulty being solved without the occurrence of any regrettable incidents. I understand that the Prince of Montenegro had appealed to the Powers before the Porte had issued their Circular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Memorandum.

LA ligne partira de l'extrémité de la Forêt de Mare, se dirigera sur Goschik, Stanislavitch, et St. Nicolas; de là elle ira rejoindre Grorisda et la Rivière de Sim, d'où elle aboutira directement à la hauteur de Voina.

Il ne s'agit que de l'abandon d'un territoire insignifiant d'une étendue de 8 kilomètres.

No. 85.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

E
(No. 103. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 12, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 102, Confidential, of to-day's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Count Corti, the Italian Ambassador, has informed me that he has expressed to his Government the opinion that the moment is not opportune for an intervention on the part of the Powers in the Turco-Montenegrin Frontier question, and that he considers that the Porte should endeavour to come to an understanding with the Montenegrin Government as to the whole boundary-line up to Mokra, and offer, in the course of their negotiations, some compensation to Prince Nicholas for the 8 kilom. of territory which they wish him to retrocede.

The Porte, however, as I have informed your Lordship in my immediately preceding despatch, appears disinclined to negotiate with Montenegro for a line of frontier beyond Graditza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 86.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 13, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to state that on the receipt of Mr. Green's despatch to me of the 19th ultimo, a copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship by that officer, I called the serious attention of Aarifi Pasha to the disgraceful state of affairs, as reported in that despatch, which continues at Scutari under the rule of the present Vali, Abdi Pasha.

At his Highness' request I furnished him with a Memorandum containing the substance of Mr. Green's despatch, and he stated that he would take an early opportunity of laying it before the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 87.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

E
(No. 11. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February 13, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, by messenger Captain Lumley, of your Lordship's despatches Nos. 1, 2, and 3, with their several inclosures, containing instructions on the subject of a note to be addressed by the Representatives of the Powers signatory of the Treaty of Berlin to the Governments at Bucharest and at Sophia, communicating the Final Act on the Roumano-Bulgarian boundary as adopted by the Powers in that Treaty.

There has been some delay in the reception of similar instructions by Baron de Ring, the French Government, as I am confidentially informed, having hesitated to concur in the Austrian proposal until it had first ascertained that the adoption of this course, *i.e.*, the marking of the boundary "tracé" by the conterminous States themselves, would be agreeable to them.

The Government of the Republic, it would appear, looked upon this proposed mode of proceeding as a slight departure from the letter of the Treaty, which in the French text of Article XLVI speaks of the boundary as being "fixé sur les lieux" by the International Commission.

This Government has, I understand, stated since at Paris that it is desirous to see the matter end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 88.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

E
(No. 53. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 16, 1883.*

THE presence of Prince Karageorgevitch at Cettinjé has attracted the attention of the Austrian Government, and Count Kálnoky tells me confidentially that he is fully satisfied that intrigues for creating excitement are being carried on between him and the Prince of Montenegro.

The latter had some time ago intended to go to Corfu, where rooms were engaged for him, in order to meet the Servian Prince, but that plan was given up, and Karageorgevitch went to Montenegro.

His proceedings seem to be seen with uneasiness by the Servian Government, for though the Prince is said not to be popular in his own country, where he was condemned for his participation in the assassination of the late Prince Milan, the King is not regarded with favour by his subjects, some of whom may be disposed to listen to a pretender who would promise an extension of territory by means of a united action

with Montenegro, where the bold and restless character of the mountaineers dispo them for any adventurous enterprise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 89.

Memorandum by Major Sale, R.E., respecting the Montenegrin Frontier.—(Received February 20.)

WITH reference to the telegraphic note from the Porte, dated 11th February, 1883, in which a modification of the line agreed upon by the Turkish and Montenegrin Commissioners at Cettinjé on the 10th ultimo is suggested, I would remark that the modification now proposed by Aarify Pasha brings back the line almost exactly to the *status quo* line held by the Turks and Albanians at the time of the cession of Dulcigno in 1880. (See the definition of this line given in my despatch No. 6 to the Foreign Office, dated Scutari, January 17, 1881.)

If the Montenegrin Government can be brought to accept this new modification the Albanians could hardly advance fuller pretensions, as it gives all they really claim, though there might and probably would be delay and dispute in applying to the ground itself the rather vague definition contained in the Turkish note.

It appears to me improbable that the Montenegrins will accept the modifications now proposed by the Porte, for they are really tantamount to throwing over the arrangement arrived at by their own and the Montenegrin Commissioners, and reverting to the *status quo* line held for the last three years.

The value of the territory in dispute is quite trifling, but that does not make it the less keenly contested; and as the Montenegrins have no doubt abated their claims in order to arrive at the compromise of the 10th ultimo, and as this compromise has been, in effect, rejected by the Turks, I think the Prince's Government can hardly be expected to make the fuller concession now desired of them.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, February 19, 1883.

No. 90.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 20.) *Scutari, February 7, 1883.*
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9 of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Mr. Wyndham, on the subject of the agitation which has arisen among some of the North Albanian tribesmen, through the killing of two of their fellow clansmen by order of the Scutari authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Wyndham.

Scutari, February 7, 1883.

Sir,

WITH reference to the occurrence reported to you in the concluding paragraph of my despatch of the 17th ultimo, I have now been informed that the Roman Catholic Bishop of Pelate, whose diocese comprises the Dukagin fractions of the mountain clans, has written to the competent Bolak Bashi to announce to Abdi Pasha that he has had the greatest difficulty in dissuading the tribesmen from making a descent on Scutari, to avenge the (what they consider) treacherous murder by the Turkish authorities of their fellow clansmen.

The Bishop suggested that the Vali should authorize him to assure the tribes that the incident in question should be looked upon in the light of a misadventure rather than as a harsh assertion of authority on the part of the military and police

forces, and that the tribesmen need be in no fear of any further acts of severity on the part of the Government.

Abdi Pasha has, however, declined to act upon the Bishop's advice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 91.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 21.) *Cettinjé, February 9, 1883.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of a note and its inclosure, communicated to me by the Montenegrin Government, on the subject of the delay which had arisen on the part of the Turkish Boundary Commissioners to carry out the terms of the Cettinjé Protocol of the 10th ultimo.

The statements contained in the Montenegrin Commissioners' Report (Inclosure No. 2) may be accepted as substantially correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 91.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

Cettigné, le $\frac{17}{31}$ Janvier, 1883.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint la traduction du Rapport qui m'a été adressée par le Commissaire Monténégrin à son retour de la Craïna, où il s'était rendu en vertu du Protocole No. 3, signé à Cettigné le $\frac{29\text{ Décembre, 1882}}{10\text{ Janvier, 1883}}$ pour procéder de concert avec ses collègues Ottomans au bornage de la ligne-frontière.

Par la lecture de cette pièce il vous sera aisé, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, de constater combien sa manière d'agir des Commissaires Ottomans dans l'affaire de la délimitation de la Craïna diffère des engagements formels qu'ils ont assumés vis-à-vis du Gouvernement Princier.

Non seulement que le bornage de la ligne-frontière entre la mer et le lac n'a pas été exécuté, mais encore ce n'est que grâce à un déploiement de ses forces que le Gouvernement Monténégrin, obligé de procéder seul à l'occupation de la Craïna, ne s'y est point heurté à une résistance armée de la part de la population Musulmane.

Des renseignements, arrivant de toute part, sont de nature à nous inspirer des craintes sérieuses au sujet de l'issue pacifique de l'occupation de quelques points de la Plaine de Podgoritza, où les travaux de bornage doivent également être exécutés.

Désireuse avant tout d'arriver à une solution prompte et pacifique de la question de sa délimitation et d'éviter toute complication fâcheuse, la Principauté espère que la Sublime Porte prendra de son côté des mesures efficaces et sérieuses pour garantir la sécurité des travaux de la Commission dans ces localités et enjoindra à ses Délégués de procéder à ces travaux dans le terme de quinze jours stipulé par le Protocole No. 3, que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous communiquer par ma note du $\frac{5}{17}$ courant.

Ce qui précède ayant du reste été stipulé comme condition essentielle de l'adhésion du Gouvernement Princier à l'arrangement intervenu entre les Délégués des deux États, si la Sublime Porte se refusait à remplir ces conditions le Gouvernement Monténégrin se verrait obligé de reprendre ses droits sur les villages de Matagoush et de Vladoja, cédés à la Turquie, et renonçant à l'espoir d'arriver à une entente directe avec la Sublime Porte, remettrait la solution de la question entre les mains des Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) J. S. RADONICH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 91.

M. Popovich to M. Radonich.

(Traduction.) *Le $\frac{17}{29}$ Janvier*, 1883.

MERCREDI, le $\frac{17}{29}$ courant, jour auquel de concert avec les Délégués Ottomans a été fixé notre rendez-vous à Topal Goritza pour de là procéder au bornage de la frontière de la Craïna, je suis arrivé avec mes collègues, Nicolas Mattanovich et Bakich, à bord de la petite mouche à vapeur de Son Altesse à l'endroit, à 8 heures et demie du matin, heure fixée pour le rendez-vous.

N'y ayant pas trouvé nos collègues Ottomans, et après avoir vainement attendu pendant quelque temps leur arrivée nous nous décidâmes de nous rendre au devant du bateau Turc, supposant qu'il pourrait avoir été forcé par le mauvais temps de se réfugier dans le petit port de Stitariza; mais nous ne l'y trouvâmes pas non plus. Il ne nous restait plus qu'à débarquer à terre, en laissant en observation une sentinelle qui devrait nous signaler l'arrivée éventuelle du vapeur Turc. Cette sentinelle n'a pu apercevoir le bateau ni ce jour-là; ni le jour suivant.

Le $\frac{19}{31}$, trois jours après, ne voyant pas arriver les Commissaires Turcs, je me décidai à envoyer à Scutari M. Bakich pour proposer à M. Bedri Bey de venir en personne, ou d'envoyer le Second Commissaire Ottoman, M. Sabri Bey, dans le but de désigner les endroits où devraient être élevées plus tard les marques du bornage, la neige ne permettant pas de procéder quant à présent à ces travaux; il aurait été ainsi plus tard facile à deux des Délégués de la Commission de fixer ces marques, et la Commission n'aurait pas été obligé de remettre à une époque ultérieure le bornage dans la Plaine de Podgoritza.

M. Bedri Bey, qui m'avait dans l'entretemps expédié une lettre avec laquelle M. Bakich s'était croisé en route, pour m'informer que le mauvais temps ne permettait pas la construction des marques de bornage, a déclaré à M. Bakich à son arrivée à Scutari que le $\frac{21}{2}$ courant, à 10 heures du matin, il était venu à Topal Goritza, ne nous y a pas trouvé, et qu'il était souffrant à la suite de cette excursion, et ne pouvait, par conséquent, se rendre dans la Craïna. Quant à l'envoi de Sabri Bey à sa place il ne pouvait le faire sans une autorisation spéciale de son Gouvernement. Cette autorisation il l'avait déjà sollicitée la veille, $\frac{1}{13}$, par télégraphe, et en attendait la réponse.

L'allégation de M. Bedri Bey n'est pas sérieuse, outre que Sabri Bey est Commissaire. Le paragraphe 2 du Protocole No. 3, de la Commission stipule expressément que les Commissaires pouvaient s'entendre pour la pose simultanée des bornes sur les deux lignes à délimiter, ce qui naturellement ne pouvait se faire qu'en partageant le personnel de la Commission Turco-Monténégrine.

M. Bakich pria alors Bedri Bey de nous faire savoir le lendemain, $\frac{1}{13}$, si lui ou Sabri Bey viendrait ou non, parce que il nous était impossible de rester dans cette incertitude. Sur ce nous avons reçu le $\frac{19}{31}$ une lettre de M. Bedri Bey, partit le même jour de Scutari, et antédatée du $\frac{14}{26}$, par laquelle il nous faisait savoir que l'état de santé l'empêchait de se rendre dans la Craïna; quant à l'envoi de Sabri Bey à sa place l'autorisation ne lui en était pas encore parvenue, la ligne télégraphique entre Scutari et Constantinople étant endommagée.

Voyant qu'il n'était pas possible d'exécuter le bornage de la Craïna dans ces conditions, nous sommes revenus à Cettigné, après avoir fait occuper le jour même de notre arrivée sur les lieux par les troupes dont nous disposions tout le pays jusqu'à la frontière indiquée sur la carte du Commissaire Anglais, à la seule exception du village Velich, coupé en deux par la ligne-frontière, et cela dans le but d'éviter tout trouble sur la frontière.

No. 92.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 22.) *Cettinjé, February 10, 1883.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 19 of the 5th instant, I have now the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a note addressed by the Montenegrin Government to each of the Representatives of the Powers here, and announcing that, owing to the failure of the Turkish Government to carry out the engagements entered into under the Protocol of the 10th instant, and its pretension to have those engagements modified, the Principality will, for the future refuse to attempt to come to a direct understanding with the Porte.

I have verbally explained to Voïvoda Radonich that whilst I could in no way endeavour to defend the conduct followed by the Porte and its Representatives, I yet felt sure Her Majesty's Government expected that Prince Nicholas would do his best to prevent an undue complication of frontier questions, questions which, thanks to the Powers, had been reduced into being matters of mere detail and of no vital importance to Montenegro.

Although I have obtained no distinct adhesion from Prince Nicholas or his Minister to the above view of the Principality's duty, still, I think it likely that no other line of conduct will be followed by His Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 92.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

Cettinjé, le $\frac{23 \text{ Janvier}}{5 \text{ Février}}$ 1883.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

HIER Vendredi au soir a expiré le terme de quinze jours fixé par le Protocole No. 3 du 29 Décembre dernier (v. s.), terme dans lequel les Commissaires Turco-Monténégrins devaient commencer les travaux de bornage sur les deux lignes-frontière—entre la Mer Adriatique et le Lac de Scutari—et celle de la Plaine de Podgoritza. La Sublime Porte n'ayant pris jusqu'à présent aucune mesure pour mettre en exécution les engagements contenus dans le Protocole susmentionné, d'ordre de mon auguste Maître j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse se référant à ma Circulaire du $\frac{17}{29}$ Janvier courant, et en présence de la manière d'agir si équivoque de la Sublime Porte, se voit malheureusement dans la nécessité de reprendre la plénitude de ses droits sur les villages de Matagouch et de Vladnja, cédés à la Turquie par le Protocole No. 3.

Le Gouvernement Princier se croit d'autant plus en droit de se dégager des obligations contractées que la Sublime Porte, après avoir autorisé ses Délégués d'apposer leur signature au Protocole du 29 Décembre, vient de nous adresser par l'entremise de son Chargé d'Affaires des propositions modifiant d'une manière fort sensible la ligne-frontière convenue dans la Plaine de Podgoritza.

Cette modification ne tendrait, en effet, à rien moins qu'à priver le Monténégro d'une grande partie de la Plaine de Podgoritza.

Ce dernier procédé du Gouvernement Ottoman nous prouve jusqu'à l'évidence l'impossibilité pour nous de pouvoir jamais arriver à une entente directe avec la Turquie. C'est pourquoi, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, je viens vous prier de vouloir bien, en portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Gouvernement, solliciter en même temps son bienveillant appui dans la question de notre délimitation, que nous remettons dorénavent entre les mains des Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) V. S. RADONICH.

No. 93.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 27.)
Scutari, February 13, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in connection with my despatch No. 20 of the 7th instant, a Report addressed this day by me to Mr. Wyndham, on the subject of the attack on Scutari made by a body of North Albanian Roman Catholic mountaineers on the 10th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Wyndham.

Scutari, February 13, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE already had the honour of informing you, by my telegram sent from Cettinjé on the 10th instant, of the attack which was made on that morning (1 A.M.) on Scutari by a body of 300 mountaineers from the tribes of Sciulla and Sciossi, and in which nineteen soldiers are reported to have been killed.

My despatch of the 7th instant explains the motive of the clansmen in making the attack.

It was commenced by a volley being fired at a sentinel of a guard-house situated not far from my residence, and well in the town.

After killing the sentinel the mountaineers momentarily withdrew in the hope of being followed by the soldiers who were in the guard-house, and thus leading them into an ambush; but, on finding they that were not pursued, the tribesmen came on again from several directions, crying they that were bent on avenging their recently murdered brethren, and warning all Christian townsmen to keep within doors.

The second attack on the guard-house succeeded in drawing after the mountaineers the troops who had been, in the meantime, reinforced, and it was then that a serious loss was inflicted on the Turks by tribesmen posted along walls and hedges.

It is useless to discuss the number of the killed and wounded, for both sides naturally wish to diminish their losses. It is only necessary, to form a just idea of the serious nature of the business, to understand that during two hours an important quarter of the town of Scutari, garrisoned by Imperial troops, was in the hands of a band of mountaineers.

The body of one of the latter, who was found killed, was stripped and dragged by a rope round its neck to the konak. It was next morning given over to the Christians for burial.

Scutari is still in a state of alarm, as the mountaineers have only withdrawn to a short distance from the town, and threaten to repeat their attacks.

The authorities have distributed ammunition and extra arms to the Mahommedan population, which, however, failed to turn out to the assistance of the troops on the night of the attack.

This distribution of arms I consider a mistake, as it may tempt the lower classes of Mahommedans to fall upon the peaceably disposed Christian townspeople.

The Turkish Government should lose no time to put an end, by either judicious conciliation or a display of overwhelming force, to a state of things which will otherwise develop into most serious complications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 94.

Mr. Drummond to Earl Granville.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, February 20, 1883.

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 43 of the 13th instant.

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs agrees entirely. Austrian Government will be happy to join her Majesty's Government and the other Signatory Powers in obtaining a settlement of the question of tribute due to Turkey.

No. 95.

Mr. Drummond to Earl Granville.—(Received by telegraph, February 21.)

E
(No. 58. Ext. 15.)
Vienna, February 20, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour of an interview with Count Kálnoky this morning, and, as instructed in your Lordship's despatch to Sir Henry Elliot No. 43 of the 13th instant, I communicated to his Excellency the wish expressed by Her Majesty's Government, that the Austro-Hungarian Government should join with them in taking steps for the

settlement of the question of tribute to be paid by Bulgaria to Turkey, and the share of the Ottoman debt due to Turkey by Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro, as set forth in the Treaty of Berlin; and that of Greece in the Xth Article of the Convention of May, 1881.

Your Lordship must have already received Sir H. Elliot's despatch No. 46 of the 9th instant, and will therefore have been prepared for Count Kálnoky's reply upon the subject.

Count Kálnoky, after I had brought to his attention the grounds upon which Her Majesty's Government considered that no further delay should occur in the settlement of the question, replied that he had already directed the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople to join with his colleagues in taking it into consideration whenever they were directed to do so by their respective Governments.

His Excellency added that he was glad to accede to the request of Her Majesty's Government: in every respect in this matter he entirely agreed with Her Majesty's Government, that the sacrifices made by the Porte should not be one-sided, but that the compensation due to her should be made by those lying under guaranteed obligations to her.

I have given a copy of your Lordship's despatch to Count Kálnoky at his request.

I have, &c.
(Signed) VICTOR DRUMMOND.

No. 96.

Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, February* 22.)

Sublime Porte, le 8 *Février*, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

D'APRÈS les dernières informations qui nous parviennent de notre Commissaire à Sophia, la marche de la Commission Turco-Bulgare continue à être entourée d'obstacles.

Au moment où nous comptions voir aboutir nos démarches itératives auprès des Puissances Cosignataires du Traité de Berlin, nous constatons avec regret que l'attitude des Délégués Bulgares, loin de subir la moindre modification, semble au contraire s'accentuer chaque jour davantage. D'un côté, ils contestent, malgré une argumentation irréfutable basée sur les termes explicites du Traité de Berlin, le droit de la Sublime Porte sur les propriétés de l'État sises en Bulgarie; de l'autre, ils cherchent, en ce qui concerne les Fondations Pieuses ("Vacoufs"), à élargir les attributions de la Commission au delà des limites tracées par le même Traité, de façon à rendre le Gouvernement Impérial justiciable devant elle. De là des discussions interminables faites pour entraver la marche de la Commission, qui n'a pu encore s'occuper sérieusement d'aucune des questions qu'elle est appelée à régler.

Cet état de choses mérite de fixer l'attention des Cabinets Cosignataires du Traité de Berlin. Je prie votre Excellence d'en entretenir de nouveau le Gouvernement près duquel elle est accréditée, et d'insister auprès de lui sur la nécessité de faire cesser par des moyens efficaces une situation si préjudiciable pour nos intérêts.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. AARIFI.

No. 97.

Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, February* 22.)

E

Le 13 *Février*, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, copie d'un Rapport de notre Agent Commercial à Varna sur les préparatifs militaires de la Bulgarie.

La situation décrite par ce Rapport révèle des symptômes graves. J'ai cru devoir la signaler à votre Excellence pour qu'elle ait à y appeler, à un moment opportun, la sérieuse attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. AARIFI.

Inclosure in No. 97.

M. Kestoridès to Aarifi Pasha.

Varna, le 31 *Janvier*, 1883.

Altesse,

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la dépêche en date du 23 de ce mois, par laquelle votre Altesse m'ordonne à accueillir et à vous communiquer des renseignements exacts sur le but et la portée des préparatifs militaires auxquels se livre ici le Gouvernement Princier.

En réponse, je m'empresse de soumettre à votre Altesse que le bateau Russe "Constantin," arrivé Jeudi dernier d'Odessa, a débarqué ici 500 colis contenant des fusils Berdan et un millier de cartouches qui ont été expédiés à Schoumla.

Il est de notoriété publique que toutes les fournitures militaires qui entrent en Bulgarie proviennent toujours d'Odessa, d'où, depuis la dernière guerre, arrive ici tout le matériel nécessaire pour l'armement et l'équipement des troupes de ligne et de la milice.

Quant au but de la commande des objets militaires précités, il y a difficulté à lui en assigner un qui soit le vrai en présence surtout de la diversité des opinions que cette dernière cargaison a produite. Leur accorder une créance, c'est les admettre sans contrôle, et d'un autre côté il n'est pas possible de soulever le voile tiré si soigneusement sur les affaires militaires du Gouvernement Princier.

Cependant, à mon humble avis, dû à des impressions personnelles, je puis dire sans risquer, peut-être, un entier démenti, que le Gouvernement Princier me fait l'effet d'un intendant fidèle qui maintient les magasins confiés à son zèle au complet et en bon ordre pour mériter de la protection de son patron et gagner la récompense que celui-ci fait miroiter à ses yeux. Aussi, tout porte à croire que dans le cas éventuel d'une complication, le Gouvernement Princier qui fête officiellement le jour anniversaire de la signature du Traité de San Stefano, qui ne cesse de regarder du côté de la Roumélie Orientale, et qui fait tout pour être ou paraître étranger aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin concernant la Principauté, fera marcher, au premier signe de la main qui le dirige, les troupes qu'il équipe et exerce de tout temps avec beaucoup de sollicitude vers la Roumélie Orientale, dont l'annexion constitue la "grande idée" des Bulgares et de leur Gouvernement.

Daignez, &c.
(Signé) A. KESTORIDÈS.

No. 98.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

Foreign Office, February 22, 1883, 5:50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MUSURUS PASHA states that a General Williams, returning from Egypt, has been inciting the Albanians towards annexation to Greece.

Have you heard anything of this?

No. 99.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 24.)

Scutari, February 23, 1883, 10:30 P.M.

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram of yesterday.

Nothing known in this part of Albania of the alleged proceeding. A General Williams of the Royal Artillery, coming from Rome, was at Corfu six weeks ago as a simple tourist.

No. 100.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

Foreign Office, February 24, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the note from the Porte, of which your Excellency was good enough to leave me a copy on the

23rd ultimo, calling attention to the questions of the Bulgarian tribute, and of the share of the Ottoman Public Debt to be borne by the Principality, as well as by Servia, Montenegro, and Greece.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are in communication with the Powers signatory to the Treaty of Berlin and to the Convention of the 24th May, 1881, with a view to securing the early and complete fulfilment of all the Articles in those instruments which affect the questions referred to in Aarify Pasha's note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 101.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 26.)

E
(No. 15.)

Bucharest, February 19, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH a view to an understanding on the subject of making a communication regarding the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier to the Roumanian Government, the Representatives of the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin met this day at the Austrian Legation.

In looking over the documents supplied by the respective Governments, it was observed that in the Act fixing the boundary dated the 17th December, 1878, the following passage occurs:—

"Deux copies du plan original au $\frac{1}{50000}$ et du cahier descriptif seront établis par les soins du Secrétariat pour être transmis au Gouvernement Ottoman et au Gouvernement Roumain après l'approbation des Puissances."

It was suggested that the Roumanian Government might raise an objection on account of this document, which had been meant for them, not being presented as constituting one of the new title-deeds, but it was stated that the inquiries made by the Austrian and Russian Envoys at Bucharest in the proper quarter had been unsuccessful in finding out the whereabouts of that important document, and that further delay was therefore unadvisable, especially after identical instructions had been received from all the Governments.

It was therefore determined to act upon these at once, and to draft a collective note to that effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 102.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 26.)

E
(No. 16.)

Bucharest, February 21, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the accompanying copy of a collective note, by which the Representatives of the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin have communicated this day to the Roumanian Government the Final Act of the International Boundary Commission relative to the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria.

In putting my signature to that document (in alphabetical order of the Powers), I have carried out the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship's despatch No. 1 of the 31st ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Collective Note addressed by the Representatives of the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin to M. Stourdza.

Bucarest, le 21 *Février*, 1883.

M. le Ministre,

LES Soussignés, Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, en date du 13 Juillet, 1878, ont l'honneur de communiquer, ci-joint, d'ordre de leurs Gouvernements respectifs, au Gouvernement Royal de Roumanie—

1. Une copie de l'Acte fixant la frontière Roumano-Bulgare, en exécution de l'Article XLVI du dit Traité, lequel Acte a été dressé à Constantinople le 17 Décembre, 1878, par la Commission de Délimitation qui avait été instituée à cet effet.

2. Une carte en quatre feuilles à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{50000}$, se rapportant au dit Acte.

3. Une copie des modifications apportées ultérieurement aux Articles 6 et 7 du même Acte.

4. Un croquis du tracé résultant de ces modifications.

5. Une copie des notes identiques échangées entre les Puissances Signataires, à l'effet de sanctionner l'Acte en date du 17 Décembre, 1878, fixant la frontière Roumano-Bulgare avec les modifications aux Articles 6 et 7 adoptées ultérieurement.

Les Soussignés s'empressent de faire savoir au Gouvernement Royal que leurs Gouvernements respectifs ont porté les mêmes documents à la connaissance officielle de la Principauté de Bulgarie.

Ils sont chargés, en même temps, d'inviter le Gouvernement Royal à se mettre en rapport avec le Gouvernement Bulgare aux fins de faire exécuter pratiquement les décisions susvisées de la Commission de Délimitation et abornar la nouvelle frontière.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAUEMA.
E. MAYR.
N. DE RING.
W. A. WHITE.
A. PANSA.
L. OUROUSSOFF.
ARTIN.

No. 103.

Memorandum communicated to Earl Granville by Count Kálnoky, February 27.

E
(Confidential.)

THE Turkish Ambassador in Vienna has addressed a note to the Imperial and Royal Government in order to obtain their intervention for the fixation of the tribute of Bulgaria, and of the share which the kingdoms of Greece and Servia and the Principality of Montenegro have to bear in the Turkish debt, in virtue of the Berlin Treaty and the Convention of the 24th May, 1881.

My Government are of opinion that these questions ought to be dealt with by all the Powers on the same principle, and they think therefore that their discussion had best take place by the Ambassadors in Constantinople. They suggest that these Ambassadors may be instructed to inform themselves about the actual state of the question, and the obstacles that are in the way of its settlement, and that they may afterwards make their propositions for its final regulation in the sense of the Berlin Treaty.

In the supposition that Her British Majesty's Government will approve this mode of proceeding, the Austro-Hungarian Government have instructed Baron Calice to enter into the discussion of the question with his colleagues as soon as these will have received a similar authorization.

I have been desired to communicate our view confidentially to Lord Granville, and to report his opinion to Vienna.

18, *Belgrave Square, February* 22, 1883.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 104.

E (No. 28.) *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 28.)*

Scutari, February 13, 1883.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH no immediate importance attaches to certain misapprehensions which evidently exist at the Porte on Turco-Montenegrin boundary matters, yet, to avoid possible future conclusions being based on them, I venture to here point them out.

It may be inferred from the last paragraph of Mr. Wyndham's despatch to your Lordship No. 4, Confidential, of the 6th ultimo that the recent negotiations at Cettinjé had been entered upon on the initiative of the Montenegrin Government.

There was, on the contrary, no pressure on the part of Prince Nicholas, nor any legalizing of Montenegrin pretensions, for the chief settlement accomplished by the Protocol of the 10th January was the retrocession by Montenegro of Matagosh and Vladuja to Turkey. The question of granting the Principality compensation for these cessions was momentarily opened through an inadvertence on the part of the Porte.

(All the arrangements under the Protocol have now necessarily been annulled. See my despatch No. 22 of the 10th instant.)

The real mission of the Turkish Commissioners to Cettinjé was to obtain the withdrawal of the Montenegrins from certain positions near Gussinjé, on the ground that the district of Dulcigno was surrendered in exchange for that of Gussinjé, as it existed before the territorial conquest made by Montenegro during the late war. When it was ascertained that this object could not be attained, the Turkish Commissioners, in order to hide their disappointment, proposed to employ the time that would probably intervene before the whole of the Delimitation Commission could reassemble by placing permanent boundary marks on those portions of the frontier about which no great divergence of opinion existed.

The Montenegrin Government accepted the proposal in a spirit of conciliation, and only insisted, when the Protocol of the 10th ultimo was agreed upon, that Bedri Bey should hold the Porte's approval of it before signing it. Also, under the wish to avoid every risk of miscarriage, the Prince's Government induced the Turkish Commissioners to require fifteen instead of three days, the term first fixed by them for fulfilling their share of the conditions of the Protocol.

In Mr. Wyndham's other despatch concerning the Montenegrin frontier, No. 15 of the 9th ultimo, he states to your Lordship that the Grand Vizier had informed him that a difficulty had arisen in the negotiations going on at Cettinjé as to the boundary of Kučka Kraïna, which probably would have to be submitted to the Commissioners of the Powers.

The Grand Vizier had thus evidently confounded the Kraïa, on the western shores of Lake Scutari, with the Kučka Kraïna, a district to the north-east of that lake. No recent negotiations have taken place regarding the latter district, for the Turkish Commissioners long ago accepted the frontier marked out in that direction by the entire Boundary Commission. Neither ought there to be any further difficulties about the Kraïa, since the reassertion by the Montenegrin Government of its authority in that district was effected on the 23rd ultimo, at the instigation, and therefore with the full consent and knowledge, of the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 105.

E (No. 30.) *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 28.)*

Scutari, February 16, 1883.

My Lord,

SCUTARI, since the attack by the mountaineers of the 10th, reported in my despatch No. 27 of the 13th instant, is like a besieged town, and from time to time, at night, the false alarms given by the sentries at the outposts keep the whole city on the alert.

No other steps have, as far as I can ascertain, been adopted by Abdi Pasha than the distribution of 600 Snider rifles and a proper proportion of cartridges to the lower classes of Mahommedans, and the imprisonment of most of the Christians in town who are of Scialla and Sciossi origin.

I am assured by people who are in a position to know that an understanding has been established between the tribes of the Great Mountain and those of the Dukagin fraction to stand by each other if the Turkish troops are employed against any one of them, and they even talk openly of having broken once for all their connection with the Ottoman Government.

The Great Mountain comprises the tribes of Hotti, Gruda, Castrati, &c., and the Dukagin those of Pulati, Scialla, Sciossi, &c.

The Mirdites are also reported to have made known their readiness to assist in any resistance that may arise against the Turks.

For the present the mountaineers have declared that they have no quarrel with the Mussulman natives in the towns or the villages, and if the Turkish troops are not greatly reinforced these Mussulmans will, in self-preservation, carefully maintain their neutrality.

I have taken some pains to ascertain the effect on the better classes of the Scutari Mahommedans produced by the present attitude of the Roman Catholic mountaineers, and there can be no doubt that it has greatly alarmed and disheartened them. They are under the conviction that it is the beginning of the end, that is, they believe North Albania is about to pass into foreign hands, and their thoughts are now as to whether it would not be better to annex themselves to Montenegro rather than to submit to Austrian domination.

Of course this state of despondence is only likely to be momentary, and the attraction towards Montenegro arises merely as a desire to spite the Roman Catholics, who, the Mussulmans fancy, are working for Austria.

I only trouble your Lordship with these notes as to the local feeling in order to mark the danger into which, through the incapacity of the existing authorities, Turkish rule has been gradually placed here.

Public meetings have been held in the mosques to petition the Porte against Abdi Pasha, who, however, appears, as complications thicken, to enjoy more and more the confidence of his superiors; for, besides being intrusted with the military as well as civil command, the Sultan has now invested him with a high decoration.

As, under present circumstances, it is proper that the Turkish authorities should be sustained by all around them, I have not failed to make it publicly perceived that, whatever may be the capacity of the authorities in whom the Porte confides, they have a right to expect that no difficulties shall be raised in their path by the Consuls here as long as they do not exceed the legitimate exercise of their functions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 106.

E (No. 69.) *Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received February 28.)*

Rome, February 22, 1883.

My Lord,

NOT having found M. Mancini at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs when I called there yesterday, I had an interview with M. Malvano, the Director of the Political Department, and read to him your Lordship's despatch No. 36 of the 13th instant, directing me to invite the Italian Government to join Her Majesty's Government in taking steps for the settlement of the question of the tribute to be paid by Bulgaria, and other outstanding questions, under the Treaty of Berlin mentioned in your Lordship's despatch.

M. Malvano informed me that a communication had been made by the Turkish Ambassador some weeks ago, calling attention to the unfulfilled clauses of the Berlin Treaty, and requesting the co-operation of the Italian Government with a view to obtaining their execution.

The reply which had been given to Musurus Bey was, M. Malvano said, that the Italian Government would communicate with the other Powers upon these questions, and would be ready to join in any course which might be agreed upon for attaining the object desired. In pursuance of this assurance the Italian Representatives had been instructed to ascertain the views of the Governments to which they are accredited, but with the exception of Her Majesty's Government there had not appeared to be much disposition to enter on these questions.

Count Nigra had, however, reported that your Lordship had the intention of dealing with the subject, and of addressing the other Powers upon it. The Italian Government

had consequently, M. Malvano said, expected to receive a communication from Her Majesty's Government of the nature of that I now made to him. He did not doubt therefore that M. Mancini would adhere to your Lordship's present proposal, and if I would leave him a copy of your Lordship's despatch for communication to his Excellency, he would acquaint me as soon as possible with M. Mancini's reply.

I accordingly handed a copy of the despatch to M. Malvano, and have now received from him the following note:—

"Voici la réponse de M. Mancini: 'La coopération de l'Italie est acquise en vue de toute entente ayant pour objet l'exécution des clauses du Traité de Berlin; ainsi, le moment venu, et alors que tous les Cabinets seront d'accord sur le *modus procedendi* que l'Angleterre propose, le Comte Corti sera nanti des instructions nécessaires.'"

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 107.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 13.) *Foreign Office, February* 28, 1883.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a note from the Porte which has been communicated to me by Musurus Pasha,* forwarding a copy of a report by the Turkish Commercial Agent at Varna relating to the military preparations which the Bulgarian Government are said to be making.

I shall be glad to receive a report from you on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 108.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 1.)

E (No. 17.) *Athens, February* 22, 1883.

My Lord,

THE Greek Members of the Commission for deciding on the indemnity to be paid to Turkey for the State lands in Thessaly leave this for Larissa on the 25th.

The Head Commissioner, M. Sarava, who has so long been designated for the post, was sworn in two days ago.

The Commission, I am assured, would have started earlier but for M. Sarava having been detained by illness at Kalamata.

This intricate question of the indemnities for State lands may give much trouble before it be decided; but I hear a good report of M. Sarava, and I know there is every wish here to avoid the necessity of submitting any questions to the decision of "the Mediating Powers."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 109.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 5.)

E (No. 8.) *Sophia, February* 17, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Petition which has been addressed to the Prince of Bulgaria by the Mussulman Deputies in the Bulgarian Chamber, praying His Highness to give orders that the complaints contained in two Memorials already presented to His Highness might be settled in a just and equitable manner, as otherwise they would not be able to justify themselves in the eyes of their constituents for their continued presence in the Chamber. The Petition also calls attention to a proposal of the Minister of War to exempt the Mussulmans of the Principality from military service on the payment of an annual sum of 10 fr. for each Mussulman between the ages of 15 and 60 years, and states that the Mussulman

* No. 97

population do not wish for exemption from military service, but desire to serve their country, and enjoy the same rights and obligations as the other inhabitants of the Principality. They therefore request His Highness to give the necessary orders for the withdrawal of the proposal of the Minister of War.

After presenting this Petition the Turkish Deputies absented themselves from the Chamber during two of its sittings, but have since resumed their duties, on receiving the assurance that their wishes should be complied with.

Nihad Pasha, to whom I am indebted for a copy of this Petition, has informed me that if the proposal of the Minister of War were to be carried into execution, the sums levied on the Mussulman population for exemption from military service would amount to 2,000,000 fr., about the fifteenth part of the Budget of the Principality. They would also be called upon to pay all the other taxes, and in addition to the unfairness of making them contribute so much more to the revenues of the State than the other inhabitants of the Principality, the extra burden would probably entail their ruin and force them to leave the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 109.

Petition of Turkish Deputies to the Prince of Bulgaria.

Sophia, le 9 *Février,* 1883.

Monseigneur,

NOUS, Soussignés, Députés Musulmans à la Chambre, réunie présentement à Sophia, prions humblement Votre Altesse:—

1. De vouloir bien donner des ordres à qui de droit, pour que nos instances concernant les intérêts vitaux de Musulmans de la Principauté et exposées dans les deux Mémoires que nous avons déjà eu l'honneur de présenter à notre Prince, puissent obtenir une juste et équitable solution. Nous ne saurions autrement justifier devant nos commettants notre présence dans la Chambre.

2. Le Ministre Princier de la Guerre a communiqué aux Soussignés l'intention de faire exempter à l'avenir les Musulmans de la Principauté du service militaire sous condition d'un acquittement annuel de 10 fr. par chaque Musulman entre 15 ans et 60 ans, et il a exprimé la conviction que cette disposition contentera la population Musulmane. Les Musulmans ne désirent guère l'exemption du service militaire; ils veulent absolument, à l'égal de leurs compatriotes Bulgares, servir le pays, et jouir des mêmes droits et des mêmes obligations. Ceux de nos coreligionnaires que des raisons exceptionnelles pourraient empêcher de s'acquitter du devoir de service militaire pourront s'en libérer par acquittement de 500 fr., par la gracieuse décision que votre Altesse a bien voulu admettre en leur faveur.

Monseigneur, nous n'invoquons pas l'Article V du Traité de Berlin, qui stipule l'égalité des droits pour tous les habitants de la Principauté; mais nous nous adressons à votre Altesse, qui est notre Prince à nous tous, habitants de la Bulgarie, et ne saurait admettre la différence qui blesserait notre patriotisme en nous excluant de l'accomplissement de nos devoirs civiques. En conséquence, nous Soussignés, prions humblement votre Altesse de vouloir bien donner l'ordre pour que la proposition susmentionnée de son Excellence le Ministre de la Guerre soit retirée, et nous prions Dieu de nous conserver notre Prince bien-aimé.

No. 110.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 5.)

E (No. 3.) *Salonica, February* 19, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit, for the information of your Lordship, the accompanying copy of a letter which I have to-day received from Mr. Capoty, at Serres, furnishing some information respecting the preparations which are made in Bulgaria for an insurrectionary movement in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 110.

M. Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

Serres, le 15 Février, 1883.

M. le Consul-Général,

JE m'empresse de vous faire part de ce qui suit.

Un Comité Bulgare presse les Bulgares de Macédoine emigrés en Bulgarie de quitter la Bulgarie ou de s'enrôler pour une invasion en Macédoine projetée, dit on, pour le printemps. Les jeunes gens qui s'enrôlent pour ce service doivent prêter serment, et le Comité Exécutif s'oblige de subvenir aux besoins des familles de ceux qui mourraient dans ces opérations.

Il y a quelque temps le chef brigand, Zumbil, de Vrondú, a écrit de Bulgarie au Mudir de Vrondú, lui ordonnant de mettre en liberté son frère Georges Zumbil, déporté à Salonique, le menaçant d'incendier et de massacrer le village entier si la mise en liberté de son frère n'a pas lieu. Il demande en même temps une certaine somme d'argent.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. CAPETY.

No. 111.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 5.)

E (No. 4.)

Salonica, February 20, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of my despatch of this date to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, reporting the information which the Vali of Salonica has received relative to the existence of a secret organization in Bulgaria for the purpose of fomenting disturbances in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Salonica, February 20, 1883.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to further report that the Vali, Ghalib Pasha, has received information from a confidential source at Kustendil that a secret organization exists in Bulgaria for getting up an insurrectionary movement in Macedonia; that armed bands are being formed in Kustendil and Dubnitza for that object; and that, with a view to excite the sympathy and intervention of the Great Powers, emissaries will be employed to get Petitions signed by the Macedonian Bulgarians, praying the foreign Consuls at Salonica and Monastir to afford them protection against Turkish misrule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 112.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 134. Confidential.)

Constantinople, February 26, 1883.

My Lord,

I INFORMED the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday afternoon that I continued to receive very unsatisfactory reports of the state of the Vilayet of Scutari under the administration of Abdi Pasha, and I particularly called their attention to the danger of arming the Mahommedan population at Scutari, upon which Mr. Kirby Green has reported to your Lordship in his despatch No. 10 of the 13th instant.

The Grand Vizier told me that the question of dismissing Abdi Pasha was still

under the consideration of the Government, and took note of my remarks as to the state of affairs at Scutari; but as I suspect that Abdi Pasha has strong support at the Palace, the Porte may have much difficulty in getting him removed from his post.

On leaving the Grand Vizier I met the Austrian Ambassador, who said that he would be very glad if I would say a word as to Abdi Pasha's conduct, as he said by his harsh treatment of the Christians he was driving them into the arms of the Montenegrins or of others. I told his Excellency that I had anticipated his wishes, having just submitted to His Highness the dangers to which Abdi Pasha was exposing the Turkish Government by his maladministration. Baron Calice said that he had already made representations on the subject to Said Pasha, and that he would speak to him again upon it at once.

I may mention to your Lordship that I particularly begged Aarify Pasha to consider the information I had given him from Mr. Green's Reports as to Abdi Pasha's maladministration as confidential, so as not to embitter the relations between the Vali and Her Majesty's Consul-General at Scutari. His Highness said he would do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 113.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received March 5.)

E (No. 50.)

St. Petersburgh, February 27, 1883.

My Lord,

I CALLED upon M. de Giers this afternoon for the purpose of conferring with him upon the question of the tribute to be paid by Bulgaria, and of the share of the Ottoman Debt which should be borne by the Principality. But I found his Excellency so busy that I did no more than leave with him a copy of your Lordship's despatch (which has no number) of the 13th instant, and of its inclosure.

M. de Giers, however, made a short statement of his views upon the subject. He said that the first thing to be done was to consider the obligations of Bulgaria. Amongst these were the question of the Varna Railway, in which his Excellency believed England was interested; the quota of the Ottoman Debt to be borne by Bulgaria, and the expense of the military occupation of that Principality. With regard to the last item, he said that, with respect to so young a country, and one which Russia had herself created, she did not wish to be hard upon Bulgaria, or to insist upon the early payment of the expenses of the occupation; but that still it was a real and positive obligation.

He considered that the study of these questions would take some time. He did not think that a Conference at Constantinople would be desirable, but that if the Ambassadors of the Powers should receive instructions, and should be prepared to confer upon and to discuss these questions among themselves, similar instructions would be transmitted to the Russian Representative at Constantinople.

M. de Giers added, however, that, whilst the Imperial Government would be ready to take the same course with regard to Servia, it would object to doing so respecting Montenegro, because the Porte had prevented, on various pretexts, the work of laying down the boundary from being completed, and, besides depriving Montenegro for so long a time of a portion of the territory to which she was entitled, had obliged her to keep up a larger and more expensive force than she would otherwise have needed.

After the above questions were settled would come that of the tribute to be paid by Bulgaria, for the calculation of which the cases of Servia and Roumania might serve as precedents, but not that of Egypt, which last had, as I understood, been suggested by the Porte. For in the case of Egypt, M. de Giers observed, the tribute had been increased, on various occasions, by payments for the acquisition of certain privileges which had previously belonged to the sovereign Power.

M. de Giers said that he was writing in the above sense to M. Nélidow, and was instructing him to put himself in communication with the Ambassadors of the Powers at Constantinople, and ascertain whether they were prepared to enter upon the consideration of the obligations of Bulgaria, and of the tribute to be paid by her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 114.

Viscount Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 185.) *Paris, March 7, 1883.*

E

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 140 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I mentioned to M. Challemel-Lacour this afternoon the *note verbale* which I addressed to his predecessor on the subject of the tribute to be paid by Bulgaria to Turkey, and of the share of the Ottoman debt to be borne by Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro, and Greece.

I spoke to M. Challemel-Lacour in the sense of the *note verbale*. I pointed out to him, on the one hand, the importance of promptly and finally disposing of all outstanding questions under the Treaty of Berlin; and I urged, on the other hand, the unfairness of insisting only upon the fulfilment of the stipulations which imposed sacrifices upon Turkey, while remaining indifferent to those which were intended to afford her compensation.

M. Challemel-Lacour said that he entirely concurred in these sentiments, and that he would look into the matter, and give me in due time an answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 115.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 8, 10·50 P.M.)

(No. 8.) *Sophia, March 8, 1883, 10·20 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

MY telegram No. 5 of the 2nd instant.

Bulgarian Government cannot agree to casting vote. They argue that if Conference is to be considered as a Court of Arbitration, all usage and legislation are against a casting vote being given to President. If Conference has to interpret decisions of Congress of Berlin, it would be inadmissible to give a double vote to any one Power.

Minister for Foreign Affairs suggests either that, as a general rule, questions should be decided by more than an absolute majority, say two-thirds, or that, in case of equal division of votes, question should be dropped.

No. 116.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

Foreign Office, March 8, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

YOUR Excellency did me the honour to leave with me on the 22nd ultimo a copy of a note from the Porte, by which your Excellency was requested to call my attention again to the unsatisfactory working of the Turco-Bulgarian Commission appointed under Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin to deal with matters relating to the property of the Imperial Government and the Vacoufs.

I beg leave to assure your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are most anxious to secure the complete fulfilment of all the stipulations contained in the Treaty of Berlin, and they have accordingly entered into communication with the other Signatory Powers with a view to bringing about a settlement of the questions to which the XIIth Article of that Treaty relates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 117.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 78.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1883.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 102, Confidential, of the 12th instant, reporting your conversations with the Grand Vizier and Aarify Pasha on the subject

of the Montenegrin boundary, the failure of the Porte to carry out the Protocol of the 10th January, and the proceedings of the Vali of Scutari; and I have to express my approval of the language which you held to the Turkish Ministers on these matters.

I inclose copy of a telegram left with me by Musurus Pasha, in which the Porte requests the good offices of Her Majesty's Government in effecting a settlement of the questions in dispute,* and a copy of my reply to his Excellency,† from which you will perceive that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that their intervention would not, in the present state of the negotiations, have any prospect of bringing about an understanding between Turkey and Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 118.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 79.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 9, 1883.*

YOU will have learnt by my despatch No. 47 of the 15th ultimo that Her Majesty's Government have invited the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin to join with them in taking measures for the definitive settlement of the questions relating to the amount of tribute due to Turkey by Bulgaria, and the share of the Ottoman debt to be borne by the Principality, by Servia, Montenegro, and Greece.

This proposal has been favourably received by the Governments of Austria-Hungary and Italy; and I have to instruct you to hold yourself in readiness to enter upon the discussion of these questions with the other Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople as soon as they are authorized to join with you. I am informed by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at this Court that instructions to this effect have already been sent to Baron Calice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 119.

Earl Granville to Viscount Lyons.‡

(No. 262.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 9, 1883.*

THE Turkish Government have repeatedly complained to Her Majesty's Government of the failure of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission to make any progress in the business for which it was appointed under Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin, owing to the difficulties raised by the Bulgarian Commissioners. I inclose copy of a despatch from the Porte on this subject recently communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador.§

From the reports received from Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia, which I have from time to time transmitted to your Excellency, these complaints appear to be well founded. The Commission, which was to settle, in the course of two years, all matters relating to the management of the State and Vacouf property, has now sat for more than twenty months without result, a circumstance which gives little ground for hoping that it will accomplish its task before the expiration of the term allotted to it, unless some measures be taken by the Signatory Powers to impress upon the Bulgarian Government the necessity of carrying out the stipulations of the Article referred to.

The Commissioners have not hitherto succeeded in agreeing as to the kind of property with which they have to deal. It is argued on one side that the Porte should only be indemnified for property which brought in a revenue, and on the other that all public buildings, such as barracks, hospitals, Courts of Justice, prisons, official residences, &c., which the Imperial Government had the power to divert to other uses, should be classed as State property for which Bulgaria is bound to pay, as they have

* No. 76. † No. 121.

‡ Also to Sir A. Paget (No. 61), Lord Ampthill (No. 118), Mr. Drummond (No. 73), and Sir E. Thornton (No. 73).

§ No. 96.

passed into her hands by Treaty and not by right of conquest. In the case of the Vacoufs, the Porte complains that the Bulgarian Commissioners have insisted upon the production of lists and inventories of such property, instead of proceeding to settle questions relating to the mode of its alienation or management, which is all that the Commission is called upon to do according to the terms of the Treaty.

The accompanying Memorandum,* which has been given to Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia, explains the view held by the Porte on these questions, and although Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to adopt it in its entirety, especially as regards the definition of State property for which compensation to Turkey is due, they cannot but think that some manifestation on the part of the Bulgarian Government of a genuine desire to act fairly by the Porte would facilitate a settlement by which the real interests of the Principality are more likely to be promoted than by maintaining an attitude of opposition to the execution of stipulations intended to protect the rights of the Suzerain Power.

Although the position of absentee Mussulman land-owners in Bulgaria is not touched upon in the present Turkish note, the Porte has called attention to it on previous occasions, and Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that, notwithstanding the assurances frequently given by the Bulgarian Government and by Prince Alexander, the provisions affecting them which are contained in the first paragraph of Article XII have remained unexecuted, and the appointment of a Commission to consider their claims has produced nothing but disappointment to the claimants.

I have to request you to communicate this despatch to the Government to which you are accredited, and to ascertain their views as to the best mode of arriving at a solution of the questions to which it relates.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 120.

Earl Granville to Mr. Drummond.

Foreign Office, March 9, 1883.

(No. 74.)
Sir,

YOU informed me by your telegram No. 15 of the 20th ultimo that the Austro-Hungarian Government concurred in the opinion expressed in my despatch No. 13 of the 13th as to the desirability of carrying out, without further delay, the financial arrangements under the Treaty of Berlin and the Turco-Greek Convention which affect Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro, and Greece.

I have since received a Memorandum from the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at this Court suggesting that the discussion of these questions should be entered upon by the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople, and stating that Baron Calice has already received instructions to that effect.

I have informed Count Károlyi that I agreed to this proposal, and I have sent similar instructions to Mr. Wyndham.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 121.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

Foreign Office, March 9, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

YOUR Excellency did me the honour to communicate to me on the 12th ultimo a telegram from the Porte relative to the delay in carrying out the Protocol agreed upon between the Turkish and Montenegrin Boundary Commissioners on the 10th January, and requesting Her Majesty's Government to endeavour to induce the Government of the Principality to accept a further modification of the frontier-line between the Lake of Scutari and Vonia.

Her Majesty's Government have attentively considered the Turkish proposal, and it appears to them that the line as defined in the telegram referred to is almost exactly

* Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

identical with the so-called *status quo* line held by the Albanians at the time of the cession of Dulcigno in 1880; its adoption would therefore entail a complete abandonment of the arrangement lately accepted by the Turkish Commissioner with the full authority of the Sultan's Government, and, under these circumstances, it does not appear to me that the negotiations between the Porte and the Montenegrin Government have yet reached a stage at which the intervention of Her Majesty's Government could be employed with any prospect of bringing about an understanding between Turkey and Montenegro on the questions in dispute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 122.

Count Nigra to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 10.)

(Translation.)
My Lord,

London, March 8, 1883.

THE Turkish Ambassador at Rome has communicated to His Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs a despatch from his Government, in which it is stated that all the Cabinets have given their adhesion to the arbitration proposed by Turkey for regulating the question of the religious houses of Roumania.

In obedience to instructions received from my Government, I have the honour of having recourse to the courtesy of your Excellency to beg you to inform me, if possible, of the sense of the answer given on that subject to Turkey by Her Majesty's Government.

Thanking, &c.
(Signed) NIGRA.

No. 123.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 11.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, March 10, 1883.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 22 of the 10th instant relative to the refusal of the Montenegrin Government to negotiate directly with the Porte on the subject of the frontier, owing to the failure of the Turkish Government to carry out the arrangements laid down in the Protocol of the 10th January.

The Porte having appealed to Her Majesty's Government to endeavour to induce the Government of the Principality to accept a further modification of the line of the Protocol, I have informed the Turkish Ambassador that it does not appear to Her Majesty's Government that in the present state of the negotiations their intervention could be employed with any prospect of success. I inclose copies of the telegram left with me by Musurus Pasha,* and of my reply to his Excellency.†

I have to express my entire approval of the language held by you to Voïvoda Radonich on this question, as reported in your despatch under acknowledgment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 124.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 12.)

E
(No. 1.)
My Lord,

Corfu, March 8, 1883.

FROM the reports that have reached me of late from the other side, namely, Epirus and the district of Arta, all seems quiet in that quarter; but this calm can only be called a truce, for all goes to show that the Porte is losing ground every day, and that the elements of discontent are watching for a fitting opportunity to carry out plans which they, no doubt, have in view; all things considered, the present calm is therefore more apparent than real.

It is as yet not easy to make out what the plans of the Albanians in respect to

* No. 76. † No. 121.

the immediate future may be, by whom they are being inspired, or how far they may be influenced by the course of events in Upper Albania.

There can be little doubt, however, that the bulk of the influential elements in Lower Albania and Epirus are not favourably disposed towards Greece. The Arta agrarian agitation has done a bad service to the cause of Greece in that country, aiming, as it does, at the expropriation of landlords; it is the best thing calculated to alienate the Albanians on the other side of the border, who are moved more by practical every-day considerations than by high political aspirations; but a certain class of Greek politicians seem to ignore this fact altogether, or they (the Opposition) would have refrained from bringing in the motion censuring the Government for having adopted last summer stringent repressive measures against the agitation.

I was a short time ago informed that the Greek Government had remitted to the Treasury at Arta 2,000 napoleons which went there from Corfu, and that a further sum of 60,000 francs in paper were brought up here from Santa Maura to be converted into gold also, presumably, for Arta.

The remittance of gold to that quarter, where no specie payments are usually made, was said to have attracted notice in this quarter; but the only explanation I have heard thereof is, that the money is probably intended to be employed in secret agencies in connection with plans that may be in contemplation respecting Epirus and Albania.

I have instructed Vice-Consul Onofrio of Santa Maura to use his utmost endeavours to obtain all the reliable information in his power on the subject, and at once to report the same.

I have delayed in reporting the foregoing to your Lordship, as I have been doing my best to obtain some accurate information, and I am now giving my closest attention to the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 125.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 13.)

E
(No. 18.) *Bucharest, March* 3, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of the reply addressed to myself and my other colleagues by M. Stourdza, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, acknowledging the receipt of the collective note on the subject of the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier, a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch of the 21st ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 125.

M. Stourdza to Mr. White.

Bucarest, le $\frac{17}{\text{Février}}$ / $\frac{1}{\text{Mars}}$, 1883.

M. l'Envoyé,

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de la communication que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser au sujet de la frontière entre la Roumanie Trans-Danubienne et la Bulgarie, et des actes y annexés.

Le Gouvernement Royal se propose d'entrer en rapport avec le Gouvernement Princier de Bulgarie pour procéder à l'établissement définitif de la ligne-frontière.

Toutefois il est un point sur lequel le Gouvernement Royal croit devoir insister: c'est que dans l'hypothèse où quelque divergence viendrait à s'élever, quant au mode d'application matérielle de la délimitation, la solution du différend serait dévolue aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin et de l'Acte du 17 Décembre, 1878.

Dans l'espoir que vous voudrez bien porter ce qui précède à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) D. STOURDZA.

No. 126.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 149.) *Constantinople, March* 6, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 9th January last, and to Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 28 of the 13th February to your Lordship, copy of which he has forwarded to me, I have the honour to state that I called the attention of the Grand Vizier to the apparent mistake as to Kraia and Kučka-Krania, to which Mr. Green alludes, and that His Highness replied that he had been in error, and that it was to the S kilom. in the Podgoritza Plain, about which a difference has arisen between the Turkish and the Montenegrin Governments, to which he had intended to refer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 127.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 14, 10·45 P.M.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, March* 14, 1883, 3·35 P.M.

ALL the Bulgarian Ministers have resigned, in consequence of dissensions between them and Russian Generals with regard to suspension of Metropolitan of Sophia, which was executed by order of the Bulgarian Synod. General Sobolelf has been charged with formation of new Cabinet.

No. 128.

Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, March* 17.)

E

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 5 Mars*, 1883.

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, copie de la correspondance qui vient d'être échangée avec l'Agence de Bulgarie à Constantinople au sujet des mesures décrétées par le Gouvernement Princier relativement aux propriétés des émigrés Musulmans.

Ainsi que vous le relèverez de la lecture de cette correspondance, les dits émigrés, après avoir été réduits à l'impuissance d'aller régler leurs affaires dans le délai triennal, qui, du reste, ne reposait sur aucune base légale, se voient aujourd'hui menacés dans leurs droits de propriété, au mépris des stipulations expresses de l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin. Le Gouvernement Princier invoque, pour justifier sa dérogation à cet acte international, l'Article 72 du Code Foncier Ottoman; mais cet Article, en même temps qu'il est mal interprété quant à sa lettre et à son esprit, trouverait très difficilement son application dans un cas réglé souverainement par le pacte de Berlin et à l'égard de ceux que les autorités et les populations Bulgares seules ont empêchés jusqu'ici de disposer de leurs immeubles.

Ces considérations d'une valeur juridique incontestable ont été dûment exposées dans ma dernière réponse à l'Agence susmentionnée. Mais, comme il y a bien peu d'espoir de voir le Gouvernement Bulgare s'arrêter dans la voie où il paraît résolument engagé, la Sublime Porte a cru nécessaire d'en entretenir les Puissances Co-signataires.

Les intérêts considérables qui sont menacés par une mesure manifestement arbitraire se recommandent à plus d'un titre à leur sollicitude, comme à la nôtre.

Je vous prie d'en entretenir son Excellence M. le Principal Secrétaire d'État pour les Affaires Étrangères. Votre Excellence voudra bien, en faisant ressortir le sentiment qui nous dicte cette démarche, s'appliquer à intéresser le Cabinet de Londres à la cause des malheureux émigrés Musulmans, et provoquer l'envoi au Gouvernement Bulgare de communications propres à le ramener une fois pour toutes au respect des dispositions du Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. AARIFI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 128.

Aarifi Pasha to M. Tsanow.

Le 21 Janvier, 1883.

J'AI reçu la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 14 Décembre dernier, relativement aux propriétés des émigrés Musulmans de la Bulgarie.

Le délai dont il y est fait mention va, ainsi qu'il a été dit dans la précédente communication de mon Département, à l'encontre des dispositions précises de l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin. En effet, cet Article établit clairement le droit des Musulmans de la Bulgarie qui ont fixé leur résidence hors de la Principauté de conserver leurs propriétés en les affermant ou en les faisant administrer par des tiers.

La jouissance de ce droit est absolue; elle n'est assujettie à aucune restriction ni limitée dans sa durée. Le Gouvernement Princier lui-même, en fixant le terme de trois ans, nous a donné l'assurance formelle que c'était là une mesure qui ne serait jamais mise à exécution.

La Sublime Porte ne peut que s'en tenir à cette assurance dictée par une délimitation adéquate des obligations découlant de l'Article susvisé. Quant aux dispositions du Code Foncier de l'Empire auxquelles vous voulez bien faire allusion, il ne saurait y avoir aucune corrélation entre elles et un cas prévu et réglé par un acte international.

Je vous prie de communiquer ces observations au Gouvernement Princier. La Sublime Porte ne doute point qu'il ne veuille bien en reconnaître le caractère aussi juste que légal, et rapporter une mesure restrictive et désastreuse pour les émigrés Musulmans que des causes indépendantes de leur volonté ont réduits à l'impossibilité jusqu'ici leurs affaires de propriété.

Recevez, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 128.

M. Tsanow to Aarifi Pasha.

Le 21 Janvier / 2 Février, 1883.

Altesse,

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser en date du 21 Janvier, et je me suis empressé de communiquer à mon Gouvernement les observations y contenues relativement aux propriétés des émigrés Musulmans de la Bulgarie.

Le Gouvernement Princier n'a pas manqué d'apporter la plus grande attention dans l'examen de ces observations, et pour me conformer aux ordres que je viens de recevoir, je dois déclarer à votre Altesse qu'il n'a pas pu que se raffermir dans sa conviction, que la mesure prise au sujet de la propriété des émigrés ne va nullement à l'encontre du Traité de Berlin.

D'après l'Article XII de ce Traité, en effet, les Musulmans qui ont fixé leur résidence hors de la Principauté peuvent conserver leurs immeubles, en les affermant ou en les faisant administrer par des tiers. Or, votre Altesse voudra bien reconnaître que tous les Musulmans qui se sont conformés aux dispositions de la loi et qui ont su profiter des sentiments d'humanité de son Altesse le Prince, jouissent de la libre disposition de leurs biens.

Il est vrai que, en principe, la jouissance du droit établi par l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin est absolue, et qu'elle n'est pas limitée dans sa durée; mais le Gouvernement Princier, ne mettant nullement en doute que, dans la pensée de tous les Cabinets, le Traité de Berlin a été, pour la Bulgarie, un gage de prospérité et non une œuvre de décadence, ne peut admettre, avec votre Altesse, que la jouissance absolue et illimitée de ce droit n'est assujettie à aucune restriction. La jouissance d'un bien quelconque n'est ni absolue ni illimitée autant qu'elle n'est pas conforme aux lois en vigueur; et l'Article 72 du Code Foncier est précis sur la possession des terres laissées en non rapport.

Je prendrai la liberté de ne pas me ranger à l'avis de votre Altesse, lorsqu'elle déclare que les dispositions du Code Foncier ne sauraient avoir aucune corrélation avec un cas prévu et réglé par un acte international. Le Gouvernement Princier a une trop haute opinion des sentiments qui animaient les Puissances pour croire qu'en créant la Principauté elles avaient l'intention de transmettre les champs féconds et les prairies florissantes de la Bulgarie en déserts et en bois sauvages. La seule interprétation que l'on puisse donner hardiment et sans crainte d'être démenti à l'Article XII, c'est que les Puissances, en réglant les dispositions, entendaient prévenir les mesures

que le Gouvernement Bulgare aurait en vue, à l'instar de la Sublime Porte, de diriger contre les émigrants. Donnant une plus grande extension à la pensée qu'inspira l'Article XII, on pourrait croire aussi que les Puissances voulaient, par ce moyen, annuler les dispositions qui avaient commencé à régir la matière aussitôt après l'entrée des troupes Russes en Bulgarie.

En ce qui concerne l'assurance qui avait été donnée à la Sublime Porte, que la mesure garderait toujours un caractère illusoire, je crois inutile de m'y arrêter, cette mesure ayant été sanctionnée par deux Décrets Princiers.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Altesse, je regrette de l'informer que mon Gouvernement, pour les motifs que je viens d'avoir l'honneur de lui exposer, et par suite des retards et des difficultés que subit la solution des questions introduites auprès de la Sublime Porte, ne peut, malgré tout son désir d'être agréable au Gouvernement Impérial, adresser à la sollicitude de Son Altesse le Prince une nouvelle demande de prolongation du délai.

Je me plais à espérer que la Sublime Porte voudra bien dûment apprécier les motifs qui ont dicté cette détermination du Gouvernement Princier, et en attendant, je saisis, &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 128.

Aarifi Pasha to M. Tsanow.

Le 27 Février, 1883.

J'AI reçu la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 5 de ce mois, relativement aux propriétés des émigrés Musulmans de la Bulgarie.

Les raisons énoncées dans cette note sont, je dois les constater, loin de fournir une base légale au Décret du 29 Février, 1882, ordonnant la confiscation des dites propriétés.

L'Article 72 du Code Foncier Ottoman, sur lequel le Gouvernement Princier se fonde, porte: "Si les habitants d'une ville ou village n'y reviennent pas dans le délai de trois années à partir du jour où les motifs légitimes qui les ont contraints à s'éloigner ont cessé, et s'ils laissent ainsi la terre en non rapport, elle sera soumise alors à la formalité du tapou."

Or, les deux conditions indiquées par cet Article existent-elles réellement dans l'espèce? Les émigrés Musulmans n'ont-ils plus de motifs légitimes pour continuer à s'absenter de la Principauté, et les trois ans sont-ils passés depuis que ces motifs auraient cessé d'exister? Ce sont là autant de questions dont la réponse se trouve dans les nombreuses plaintes que les émigrés Musulmans ont adressées à la Porte pour des faits nullement ignorés par le Gouvernement Princier.

D'ailleurs, en admettant même un instant, ce qui n'est pas le cas, que l'Article 72 précité justifie la mesure adoptée par le Gouvernement Bulgare, elle n'en serait pas moins privée de base légale, en présence du Traité de Berlin qui garantit aux propriétaires d'immeubles ayant fixé leurs résidences personnelles hors de la Principauté le droit de les y conserver. L'Article XII de cet Acte constitue une disposition exceptionnelle en faveur des émigrés et a pour base de les mettre à l'abri de la rigueur des dispositions légales antérieures qui pouvaient les priver, par suite de leur séjour prolongé hors de la Principauté, de la jouissance de leurs propriétés.

Malgré la clarté et la précision des stipulations de cet Article, la note lui prête une toute autre signification, qui serait basée sur cette considération, que les Puissances Signataires du Traité susvisé n'ont pas voulu transformer les champs féconds et prairies florissantes de la Principauté en désert et en bois sauvage.

Je regrette de devoir constater, M. le Gérant, qu'une pareille interprétation, s'éloignant entièrement des termes exprès de l'Article XII dont il s'agit, n'est point conforme aux règles les plus élémentaires que l'on doit suivre dans toute interprétation de loi. Il n'est point admissible que l'on s'écarte des dispositions claires et précises d'un Article sous le prétexte de préjuger une pensée quelconque qui aurait guidé ses auteurs.

Je puis me dispenser de l'examen de la question de savoir si l'absence prolongée du territoire Bulgare de quelques familles Musulmanes, qui n'ont jamais, d'ailleurs, cultivé elles-mêmes leurs champs, aurait pu faire de la Principauté un désert. Qu'il me suffise seulement de faire remarquer qu'il n'appartient qu'aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin de modifier les termes de cet Acte. Mais, tant qu'il reste intact, il doit être scrupuleusement respecté par tous ceux qui en sont liés.

Ces considérations démontrent jusqu'à l'évidence le droit de la Sublime Porte

de maintenir le point de vue auquel elle s'est placée dès le début dans cette question, et d'insister sur l'abrogation du Décret relatif aux propriétés des émigrés Musulmans.

En vous faisant part de ce qui précède, je vous prie de faire au Gouvernement Princier les communications nécessaires en conséquence.

Agréez, &c.

No. 129.

Earl Granville to Count Nigra.

Foreign Office, March 17, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

YOUR Excellency has done me the honour to inquire, by your note of the 8th instant, what reply has been given by Her Majesty's Government to the proposal of the Porte with regard to the claims of the monasteries of the holy places to certain properties in Roumania.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I addressed a note to Musurus Pasha on the 24th November last, stating that Her Majesty's Government were quite ready to join with the other Powers in considering the question whenever those Powers intimated their willingness to enter into an examination of it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 130.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 10.)

Sophia, March 1, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 5 of the 31st January, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the collective note which has been addressed by the Representatives of the Great Powers at Sophia to the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to communicate to his Excellency a copy of the Act of the 17th December, 1878, determining the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria, and to invite the Bulgarian Government to come to an understanding with the Roumanian Government for the purpose of laying down the boundary marks on the line of frontier determined by the International Commission.

The map, which accompanied the collective note, was furnished by the Austro-Hungarian Agent and Consul-General, and it was therefore not necessary for me to present to the Bulgarian Government the one which was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch above referred to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Collective Note of the Representatives of the Great Powers to the Bulgarian Government.

Sophia, le 28 *Février*, 1882.

LES Soussignés, Représentants d'Allemange, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grande-Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Russie, d'ordre de leurs hauts Gouvernements respectifs, ont l'honneur de communiquer par la présente à son Excellence M. Stoiloff, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de la Principauté de Bulgarie, copie de l'Acte du 17 Décembre, 1878, fixant la frontière entre la Roumanie et la Bulgarie, ainsi que le texte des modifications des Articles 6 et 7 de cet Acte adoptées ultérieurement par les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

En vertu de leurs instructions les Soussignés sont chargés d'adresser au Gouvernement Princier l'invitation de s'entendre directement avec le Gouvernement Royal de Roumanie pour la mise à exécution des décisions de la Commission Internationale de Délimitation, c'est-à-dire, de se concerter avec le Gouvernement Royal de Roumanie pour prendre d'un commun accord d'après l'Article 8 de l'Acte de Délimitation, les mesures que les deux États jugeront nécessaires pour établir des marques de

bornage conformément au tracé arrêté par la Commission Internationale et consigné dans la carte descriptive également ci-jointe.

Une communication analogue est adressée au Gouvernement Roumain par les Représentants des Puissances Signataires accrédités à Bucarest.

Les Soussignés, &c. (Signé) BRAUNSCHWEIG.
BIEGELEBEN.
J. SCHEFER.
FRANK C. LASCELLES.
R. DE MARTINO.
S. ARSENIEW.

No. 131.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 11.)

Sophia, March 3, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a statement showing the definitive Budget for 1883, as voted by the Bulgarian National Assembly, according to which the expenditure is estimated at 31,502,127 fr., and the revenue at 30,568,280 fr. The deficit of 934,147 fr. will, according to a statement made in the Chamber by the Minister of Finance, be easily covered by the arrears of taxation due from the previous year.

I understand that the estimate of the revenue is considered very low, and that it is anticipated that the sum will be largely exceeded.

The estimate for the Ministry of War amounts to 12,345,260 fr.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 132.

E *Mr. Drummond to Earl Granville.—(Received March* 19.)

(No. 81.)

Vienna, March 13, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 73 of the 9th instant, respecting the failure of the Turco-Bulgarian Commission to make any progress in the business for which it was appointed, under Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin, owing to the difficulties raised by the Bulgarian Commissioners, and which were stated in your Lordship's despatch.

I saw Count Kálnoky this morning, and in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I communicated to his Excellency your despatch, at the same time handing to him its contents in Memorandum form.

His Excellency said that he quite agreed with the substance and reasoning of Her Majesty's Government, but that he could not give the views of the Austrian Government as to the best mode of arriving at a solution of the questions to which your Lordship's despatch referred; the only way of inducing the Bulgarian Commissioners to act rightly and honestly in the matter was by sending instructions to our respective Diplomatic Agents at Sophia to point out to the Bulgarian Government that the difficulties constantly raised on the part of the Bulgarian Commissioners were viewed in a very unfavourable light by our respective Governments; this, however, had been frequently done both at Sophia and elsewhere without any favourable result. His Excellency continued, "I am quite at a loss to know how our wishes can be accomplished;" the problem to be solved was an extremely difficult one. I replied that Her Majesty's Government were evidently of the same opinion, but that if the Austrian Government arrived at an opinion on this paradoxical question, I should esteem it a favour if his Excellency would be good enough to inform me of it, which Count Kálnoky said he would be happy to do.

I have, &c.

(Signed) VICTOR DRUMMOND.

No. 133.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 19.)

E
(No. 99.)
Berlin, March 16, 1883.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's instruction, I communicated this day to the Minister for Foreign Affairs your Lordship's despatch No. 115 of the 9th instant, respecting the failure of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission to make any progress in the business for which it was appointed under Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin, and was assured, in reply, by his Excellency, that he would read up the correspondence in the Foreign Office and would let me know his views as to the best mode of arriving at a solution as soon as he had been able to take the subject into consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 134.

Viscount Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 215.)
Paris, March 17, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note with which I have transmitted to the French Government copies of your Lordship's despatch No. 262 of the 9th instant, and its inclosures, relative to the failure of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission to make any progress in the business for which it was appointed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 134.

Viscount Lyons to Challemel-Lacour.

Paris, March 17, 1883.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Excellency a despatch, with two annexes, which has been addressed to me by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the failure of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission to make any progress in the business for which it was appointed under the XIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

In asking your Excellency's attention to this despatch, I have the honour to represent to you that Her Majesty's Government are very desirous of being made acquainted with the views of the French Government as to the best mode of arriving at a solution of the question to which it relates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 135.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 22, 8 A.M.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, March 21, 1883, 4·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING sent to Mr. Wyndham:—

"A brother of Verbitza, the Montenegrin ex-Minister of the Interior, was shot dead this afternoon in the middle of the Scutari bazaar by six Albanian mountaineers.

"No other apparent motive for this act than to embroil matters with Montenegro."

No. 136.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 23.)

E
(No. 94.)
Rome, March 19, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 88 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a translation of a note which I have this day received from M. Mancini on the subject of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission, in which his Excellency states that the Italian Government entirely concur in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, as expressed in your Lordship's despatch No. 61 of the 9th instant.

M. Mancini is of opinion that the best mode of arriving at a solution of this question would be for the Representatives of all the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin to make a suitable representation to the Bulgarian Government calling upon them for the exact fulfilment of the dispositions of the Treaty, and he adds that if Her Majesty's Government are disposed to take the initiative in obtaining the adhesion of the Great Powers for this purpose the participation of the Italian Government is henceforth assured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Signor Mancini to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.)
Rome, March 16, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAD the honour to receive your Excellency's note of the 12th instant, with the inclosed despatch from Earl Granville, relative to the difficulties in carrying out their objects met with by the Turco-Bulgarian Commission, established in accordance with Article XII of the Berlin Treaty. The Sublime Porte has, on these same grounds, already repeatedly made complaints to the Italian Government, and since these complaints had seemed to us in general well founded, instructions were given to the Italian Agent in Sophia to join in any remonstrances made by his colleagues towards persuading the Bulgarian Government to execute faithfully the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

Since, however, the other foreign Representatives at Sophia were not, so far as we know, furnished with similar instructions, Commander de Martino never had an opportunity of making use of his instructions.

The Government of the King, consequently, entirely concurs in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, without thereby meaning to adopt all the Porte's arguments, which, as Lord Granville truly remarks, may have to be examined specially as regards the definition of State property, for which compensation by the Bulgarian Government is due.

Since your Excellency is pleased to ask my advice as to the best mode of arriving at a solution of this question, I will add that at present it seems to me that the best thing to be done would be for the Representatives of all the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin to make a suitable representation to the Prince's Government, calling upon them for the exact fulfilment of the dispositions of the Treaty, since isolated steps would produce no result. If Her Majesty's Government be disposed to take the initiative towards obtaining the adhesion of the Great Powers to such a solution, the participation of the Italian Government is henceforth assured.

The above considerations may, in the opinion of His Italian Majesty's Government, be equally applied to the question of the private property of Mussulmans who have emigrated from the Principality.

I seize, &c.
(Signed) MANCINI.

No. 137.

Mr. Drummond to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 26.)

E
(No. 88.) *Vienna, March* 16, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Nasri Bey, my Turkish colleague, lately brought to the notice of Count Kálnoky the determination on the part of the Bulgarian Government to put a different interpretation to that intended in Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin, in respect, at least, to that portion of it having reference to the property of Mussulmans in Bulgaria.

Nasri Bey requested his Excellency's good offices in order that the Austrian Minister at Sophia might urge the Bulgarian Government to alter its decision; Count Kálnoky told me he was writing to inquire into the matter.

Nasri Bey has since explained to me the bearing of the question in point; he says the Ottoman Code Foncier, Article 72, states that if the inhabitants of a town do not return before the end of "three years" from the day legitimate motives forcing them to leave their homes have ceased, they are subjected to the formality of the "Tapou," which means that their property may be conceded to a third party on their paying the "dime" and an extra contribution. The original proprietor would thus lose all his rights to his property, unless he on his return could prove that his absence had been caused by motives for which he was not entirely responsible, and which thus had been the reason of his lands being left uncultivated.

The Bulgarian Government have seized on this Article in favour of their own wishes to get rid of as many Mussulmans as they can, and have adopted it in the form of a Decree; the Porte insists on its abrogation, as they maintain that the wording of Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin gives to Mussulmans in Bulgaria, who have chosen a residence away from Bulgaria, the right to preserve their properties by affirming, or by arranging to have their properties administered by a third party, and that the right is not limited to any specified time; moreover, that a Decree of a State, having reference to a proceeding by which it is already bound by an international obligation, can never be permitted to overrule the latter without the consent of the Powers who have bound the State in question to its conditions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) VICTOR DRUMMOND.

No. 138.

Mr. Drummond to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 26.)

E
(No. 94. Confidential.) *Vienna, March* 21, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Kirby Green's despatch to your Lordship No. 24, Confidential, of the 11th ultimo, in which he mentions that there is a rumour that Austro-Hungarian emissaries are at work in North Albania stirring up the Roman Catholic mountaineers to create trouble, and had been in communication with their clergy, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have every reason to believe that, if these emissaries really exist, they are not in any way associated with the Austrian Government. Quite lately Count Kálnoky told me that it had been reported that an Austrian Colonel was in Albania, and that Turkish suspicion was aroused as to his movements, but that in reality he was a person travelling with scientific objects. I mentioned to him that General Owen Williams, who had been snipe-shooting in Albania, was also considered a mysterious personage.

It is quite possible that the scientific wanderer mentioned by Count Kálnoky may have said in an unguarded moment, when in the midst of the Roman Catholic tribes in Albania, that Austrian protection would be better for them than their present political situation, and thus exaggerated reports have arisen.

In conversation yesterday with my Italian colleague, Count Robilant, I asked him confidentially whether he had heard of any report of the kind. His Excellency replied that he had not, and he felt convinced that it was erroneous, certainly so as far as the Austrian Government was concerned. I then mentioned that it was supposed that a Hungarian Prelate, Strossmeyer, for instance, may have given letters to some friend of his travelling in Albania, recommending him to the clergy of the northern tribes. Count Robilant said that this was quite possible, for Cardinal

Strossmeyer is a Croat, and has great influence over the Slavonic population in Hungary, and, as he is an intriguer, and very independent in his character, he may have given one of his own Slavonic flock letters to the clergy of the tribes mentioned, inciting them to place themselves under Austrian protection; he was quite capable of doing so. His Excellency told me that the Cardinal is not viewed in a favourable light at the Vatican; but, having such power over the Slavonic race, he is humoured; perhaps, therefore, the supposed Austro-Hungarian emissaries may be only one or more of Cardinal Strossmeyer's.

With respect to what Prince Nicholas of Montenegro stated to Mr. Kirby Green concerning military preparations, concentration of provisions and ammunition on the southern frontier of the Provinces of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, I requested Colonel Primrose to find out what truth there may be in His Highness' remarks. Colonel Primrose has sent to me a Confidential despatch, which forms the inclosure in my preceding despatch, narrating a long and most interesting conversation which he had the honour to have with the Emperor on the 20th instant. His Majesty, it will be observed, spoke lengthily on the present state of affairs in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, with which His Majesty is perfectly satisfied. His Majesty says that he has not decided to reduce the garrisons there, nor has he thought it necessary to increase them. The erection of a line of detached posts along the Montenegrin frontier had caused a slight movement of the effectives; possibly, therefore, this movement may have been the cause for the Prince of Montenegro's remarks to Mr. Kirby Green.

I have, &c.
(Signed) VICTOR DRUMMOND.

No. 139.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 26.)

E
(No. 166. Confidential.) *Constantinople, March* 20, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatches Nos. 47 and 79 of the 15th ultimo and 9th instant respectively respecting the Bulgarian tribute and the share of the Ottoman Public Debt to be borne by the Principality, Servia, Montenegro, and Greece.

The German and the Austrian Ambassadors and the Italian Chargé d'Affaires have received instructions favourable to your Lordship's proposal, and the French Ambassador, as I was led to expect by the information as to the immediate policy of the French Government with regard to Turkey, contained in Lord Lyons' despatch to your Lordship No. 185 of the 7th March, copy of which you did me the honour to forward to me in your despatch No. 86, Confidential, of the 9th instant, has not at present received definite instructions, and the Russian Minister is, as far as I can learn, in a similar position.

I have endeavoured in vain to see M. de Nelidoff lately, and the Austrian Ambassador, upon whom I called this morning, told me that he also had called several times upon his Excellency, but had not found him at home, and had therefore been unable to learn whether he had received any instructions or not. From what I have learnt, however, from some of my colleagues, the Russian Government, while accepting your Lordship's proposal in principle, will probably put forward certain considerations with regard to Bulgaria and to Montenegro which may delay a settlement of the questions at issue.

M. de Noailles, with whom I had a long conversation on the subject on the 18th instant, told me that his Government was quite in accord with that of Her Majesty, and that they did not wish to put off the settlement of the question in any way; that they quite recognized the justice of endeavouring to cause the Articles of the Treaty of Berlin referring to the debts, and which were favourable to Turkey, to be carried into effect, and that if there was any delay it arose rather from himself, as his Government was waiting, not, he said, quite for his opinion, but to be enlightened upon the subject. His Excellency then said that he had heard from M. de Radowitz that the Russian Minister would not receive favourably a proposal to call upon Bulgaria to pay tribute to Turkey, as there were other questions with regard to the Principality which should, in M. de Nelidoff's opinion, be settled in the first place.

M. de Noailles then said that, in presence of this probable attitude on the part of the Russian Minister, he was reflecting as to whether it would be prudent to meet in

conference, and perhaps to expose ourselves to a check at the outset, and that he thought we should experience very great difficulties; for, if the other States saw that Russia was interesting herself to prevent Bulgaria being called upon to pay tribute, they would probably also raise objections to make any payments to Turkey, and that Montenegro would certainly plead delay, and he thought she might justly do so, on the ground that the rectification of her frontier had not been completed.

I told M. de Noailles that, in view of my instructions, I was anxious to see some steps taken to give effect to them, and I asked him whether he thought we might not meet and perhaps decide upon some plan of action. M. de Noailles replied that he was most anxious not to have another conference at Constantinople which might, like the last, have only a negative result; that if one were held here again he should like it to have a positive result; that he could, however, by telegraphing to Paris, receive his instructions at once; but that, on the whole, he thought it would be better to wait, and see what might occur later on in the spring.

It does not, therefore, seem probable, taking into consideration the language of the French Ambassador, and the views reported to be held by M. de Nelidoff on the questions at issue, that there is any prospect of the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople being able to meet to discuss them at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 140.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 26.)

E
(No. 167. Very Confidential.) *Constantinople, March* 20, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch No. 166 of to-day's date, I have the honour to report that, on my mentioning this morning to Baron Calice, the Austrian Ambassador, the tenour of M. de Noailles' observations to me as to the Bulgarian tribute, and the share of the Turkish Debt to be borne by the Principality and by Servia, Greece, and Montenegro, I said that I considered the French Govern ment wished to gain time, and that I had reason to believe that they did not intend to do anything which might be agreeable to Turkey until the question of the Governorship of the Lebanon had been settled. Baron Calice replied that that might be the case, but that he had reason to believe that there was another motive, viz., that France was anxious to act in a manner agreeable to Russia.

I may mention to your Lordship that this is not the first time Brron Calice has made an observation to me in the above sense with regard to the policy of France towards Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 141.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 25.) *Constantinople, March* 27, 1883.
(Telegraphic.)

THE Porte has received satisfactory assurances as to reported armaments in Bulgaria.

No. 142.

Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, March* 29.)

E *Constantinople, le* 28 *Mars*, 1883.
(Télégraphique.)

NOS autorités de Scutari nous télégraphient que dans ces derniers jours les Monténégrins en grand nombre franchissaient fréquemment la frontière du côté du fortin d'Oolebozo et du pont de Sim et viennent tenir des réunions aux environs des

endroits où se trouvent des patrouilles Ottomanes. Le 9 Mars, quatre bandes Monténégrines ont accosté à Castrati. Les gens qui les formaient ont fait feu et tué le père du Baïracdar de cette localité, ainsi que le fils d'Omer Ali, de Viran Touzi; ils se sont retirés à Morik. Les Monténégrins ont tué, en outre, trois hommes et deux femmes dans ce village même de Calafa.

Cet état de choses a jeté l'émoi dans l'esprit de nos populations et menace d'entraîner de fâcheuses conséquences.

Je vous prie de signaler ce qui précède à la sérieuse attention du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité et de l'engager à faire parvenir à Cettigné des représentations énergiques en vue d'amener le Gouvernement Monténégrin à adopter un ensemble de mesures propres à faire cesser sans retard ces faits regrettables.

No. 143.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 99.) *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1883.

Sir,

I INCLOSE copies of correspondence, which has been communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador, relative to the treatment of the Mussulman owners of land in Bulgaria by the Bulgarian Government, notwithstanding the provisions made in their interests by the first paragraph of the XIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.*

I authorize you to inform the Porte, confidentially, that I am in consultation with the Signatory Powers, with a view to obtain the proper execution of this Article, both as regards the land-owners, and the State property and vacoufs; and I have requested Her Majesty's Ambassadors to call the special attention of the Governments to which they are accredited to the state of affairs disclosed in this correspondence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 144.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

Foreign Office, March 29, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAD the honour to receive from your Excellency, on the 17th instant, copy of a despatch from the Porte, inclosing copies of correspondence with the Bulgarian Government with reference to the refusal of the latter to recognize the rights secured to the Mussulman owners of land in the Principality under the first paragraph of the XIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I beg leave to inform your Excellency that I have requested Her Majesty's Ambassadors to call the attention of the Signatory Powers to the state of affairs disclosed in this correspondence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 145.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 30.)

E *Rome, March* 27, 1883.
(No. 102.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Kirby Green's telegram No. 9 of the 21st instant (Confidential Print No. 2, Wednesday and Thursday the 21st and 22nd March), reporting that a brother of Verbitza, the Montenegrin ex-Minister of the Interior, had been shot dead in the middle of Scutari Bazaar by six Albanian mountaineers, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Mancini read to me yesterday afternoon a telegram from the Italian Consul at Scutari, which confirmed the above intelligence, and stated that the Prince of Montenegro had in consequence called upon all Montenegrin subjects to leave Albania and return within the frontiers of the Principality.

* No. 128.

His Excellency in speaking of the gravity of this measure, which, if acted upon, would entail of course considerable losses and inconvenience upon the Montenegrins affected by it, and would consequently superinduce an increase of the hostile feeling between the inhabitants of the neighbouring provinces, informed me, in reply to my inquiry whether he had taken any action upon the telegram from the Consul at Scutari, that he had telegraphed to the Consul at Cettinjé to report upon the intentions of the Montenegrin Government, and, if necessary, to point out to them that although of course they had every right to expect and demand full reparation by the punishment of those who had been guilty of the present crime, still that so drastic and general a measure, fraught with so many serious consequences as the one referred to, would hardly be justified on account of the murder of one individual, whatever might have been his social status.

M. Mancini observed that in the present dangerous state of tension of the public mind in the Balkan peninsula, it appeared to him that it would be prudent not to neglect the smallest incident which, unless precautions were at once taken to prevent its development, might perhaps lead to the most serious complications, possibly even to the reopening of the whole Eastern question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 146.

Musurus Pasha to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 30.)

E

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 30 *Mars,* 1883.

DEPUIS quelque temps Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie était en pourparlers avec la Sublime Porte pour obtenir de la Cour Suzeraine l'autorisation d'instituer un Ordre Bulgare sous la dénomination "d'Ordre de St. Alexandre."

La demande de Son Altesse a fait l'objet d'un examen approfondi. En droit, l'institution d'un Ordre Bulgare est évidemment en désaccord complet avec le principe de la suzeraineté, dont la collation de décorations constitue une des prérogatives inséparables. Le Gouvernement Impérial ne pouvait pas, par conséquent, déroger à ce principe.

Toutefois, dans son désir de concilier cette considération d'une importance capitale avec le vœu exprimé par Son Altesse le Prince, la Sublime Porte a décidé de lui étendre la même faculté accordée à Son Altesse le Khédive: celle de conférer des décorations Ottomanes. Aussi des brevets blancs seront-ils envoyés à Son Altesse le Prince. Il demeure entendu que cette faculté ne s'appliquera aucunement à l'institution d'un Ordre Bulgare.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence, conformément aux instructions que j'ai reçues de mon Gouvernement, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) MUSURUS.

No. 147.

*Earl Granville to Viscount Lyons.**

(No. 326.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 30, 1883.

I ALLUDED in my Circular despatch No. 262 of the 9th instant to the unfortunate position of the Mussulman owners of land in Bulgaria, and I have lately received from the Turkish Ambassador copy of a despatch from the Porte inclosing the correspondence which has recently taken place with the Bulgarian Government on this subject, from which it is evident that the unaided efforts of the Turkish Government will not succeed in obtaining the proper fulfilment of the XIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have to request you to call the attention of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs to the state of affairs disclosed in this correspondence, of which I inclose copies herewith.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

---

* Also to Sir A. Paget (No. 76), Lord Ampthill No. 147), Sir H. Elliot (No. 90), Sir E. Thornton (No. 96)
† No. 128.